■ World / A9

Jennifer Aniston sues Brad Pitt for divorce

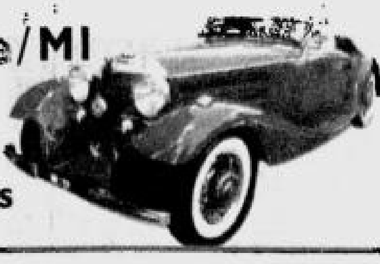
■ Metro / A23

Ex-seminarian builds palace for poor

■ Magazine / Q1

God's own PR man

■ Lifestyle / M1



Family jewels on wheels

JOB Market

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'The Da Vinci Code' focus of Good Friday sermon

NA-INTRIGA TULOY AKONG BASAHIN ANG LIBRO.. MAKABILI NGA!

VATICAN CITY—A Vatican official railed against "The Da Vinci Code" during a Good Friday sermon in St. Peter's Basilica, saying the hit book was an example of "literary and artistic parasitism" in a sex-obsessed society.

THE DA VINCI/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Once-conjoined RP twins given clean bill of health

NEW YORK—A set of 2-year-old conjoined twins from the Philippines, who had been successfully separated, were given a clean bill of health by their doctors after a checkup and, according to their mother, were now eating solid food.

Carl and Clarence Aguirre have been in New York since September 2003. Doctors at

ONCE-CONJOINED/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday, March 27, 2005 ★★ 138 pages 19 sections Vol. 19 No. 107 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Lenten threat over–AFP

But PNP still on alert for Abu Sayyaf terror strike

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE CAPABILITY of the Abu Sayyaf to carry out bomb attacks in Metro Manila and other key urban centers in the country has become "almost nil," police declared yesterday.

The military also gave a similar assessment following the arrest of a key Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) operative and the seizure of 600 kilos of bomb materials last week.

"(The threat) is almost nil in the sense that we have kept them on the run, and we have already arrested (some key members), and the remnants are kept on the run and off balance," said Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

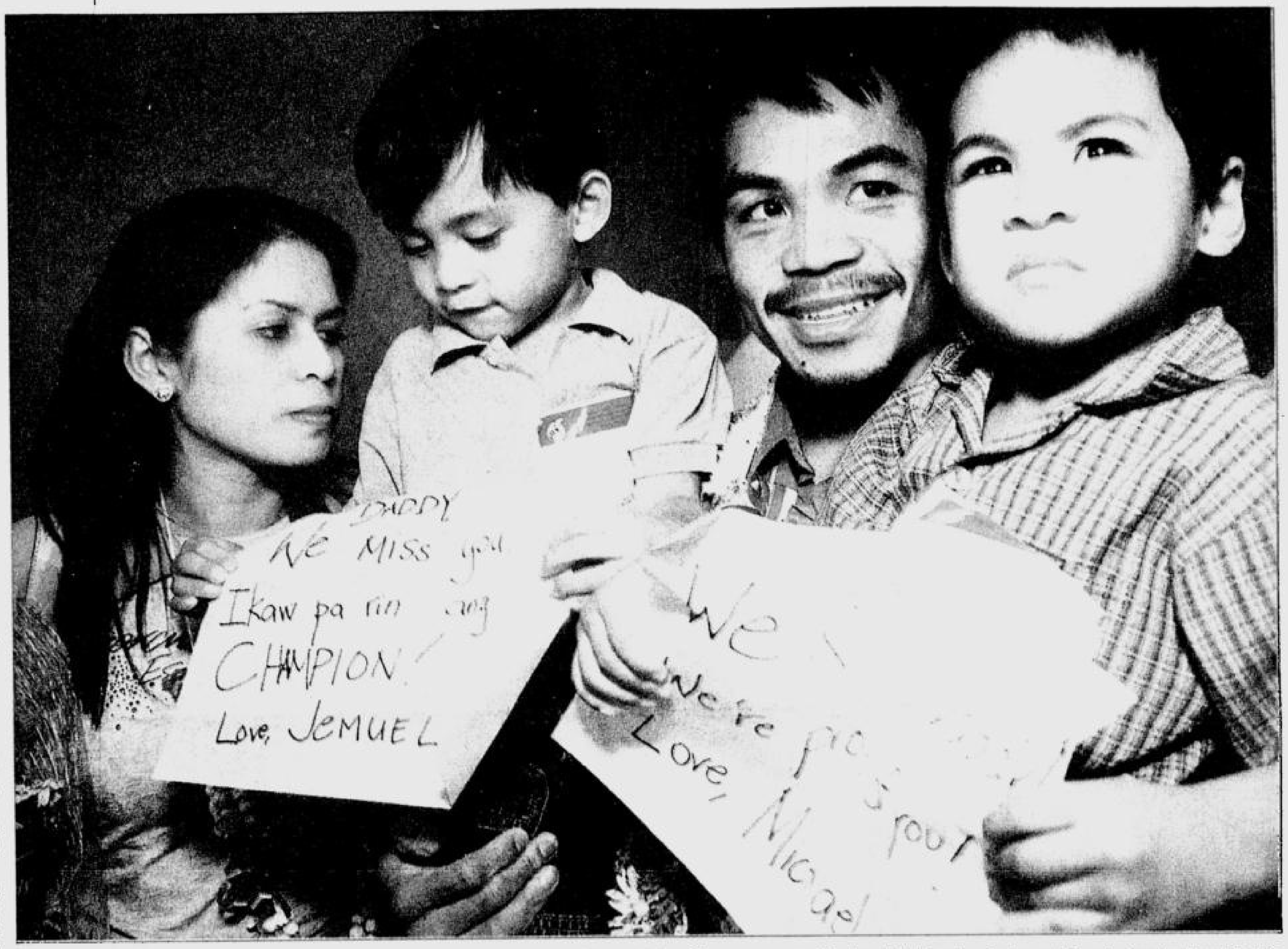
A senior military official struck a more optimistic note.

"*Wala na* (There is no more threat). We have arrested them and confiscated their bombs," said Lt. Gen. Allan Cabalquinto, chief of the National Capital Region Command.

"The rest are in hiding, and we are continuing our follow-up operations," he said.

With the security measures put in place by the police and the military, Metro Manila is "safe," Cabalquinto said. "We will take care of the problem,, the people can enjoy."

LENTEN/ A21



HERO'S WELCOME: Filipino boxing hero Manny Pacquiao may have lost the biggest fight of his career yet to Mexican Erik Morales. But upon his arrival yesterday with wife Jinkee, the ring idol's children show just how they—and the rest of the country—feel about him. *(Story on Page A25.)*

RUDY ESPERAS

Woman is 4th journalist slain this year

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

TACURONG CITY, Sultan Kudarat—A former government employee, who turned to writing to fight graft, was shot dead inside her house on the night of Maundy Thursday while she was having dinner.

Police probers said the gunman even greeted Marlene Esperat "good evening, ma'am," before firing a single shot into her face while her terrified 10-year-old daughter watched.

She died instantly from a bullet wound in her right eye, according to the police.

Esperat, 45, became the fourth woman journalist killed since democracy was restored in the country in 1986, according to the list compiled by the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP).

She was the fourth Filipino journalist murdered this year. Last year, 13 journalists were killed in the country, the NUJP said.

Esperat, who wrote an opinion column for the weekly community newspaper Midland Review, was shot dead at 7:30 p.m. in her house on Ilang-Ilang Street.

Her husband, George Esperat, told a radio station that his wife had "many enemies because of her exposés," mostly on corruption and other issues of governance.

"I told her earlier to stop, but she just shrugged it off, saying she's just doing her work," her husband said.

Charlie Garcia, the victim's elder brother, told the INQUIRER that Esperat had been receiving threats, prompting the police to provide her with a security escort.

But Garcia said his sister gave her security escort a vacation because of the Lenten season.

"She told her bodyguard to go home as it was Holy Week," he said.

Garcia said Esperat had decided not to leave her house because she had no bodyguard.

"Unfortunately, the assailant perpetrated the attack right inside her house," Garcia said.

After the killing, the gunman casually walked out of the house and fled on foot along with another man, who had served as a lookout, Garcia said.

Before the shooting, the gunman was seen buying cigarettes at a *sari-sari* store just beside the victim's house, according to investigators.

"Nobody suspected he was a killer. The neighbors thought he was just a visitor," Garcia said.

Chief Insp. Raul Supiter told a radio station that investigators were not only looking at Esperat's work as a journalist but also at her previous job as ombudsman at the Department of Agriculture office in Central Mindanao as the possible motive for the killing.

WOMAN/ A22

FPJ was no blockbuster in real life, says widow

By Fe Zamora

HIS REEL LIFE may have been a blockbuster but, according to his widow, his private life was hardly so.

And if that life were to be made into a movie, "it would be very difficult to come up with a story," said Susan Roces. After all, she said, "who would portray him? And then, what angle? His real life is not that colorful to say that he had enemies."

Not even his three other "heirs" could make his life "colorful" enough to be a smash hit, it would seem.

Roces had dinner on March 16 with INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto, editors and staff in the course of accepting this newspaper's 2004 "Filipino of the Year" award for her late husband, movie icon Fernando Poe Jr.

Known to be an intensely private person, Roces surprised her dinner companions when she answered all the questions asked, including one involving the sensitive issue of Poe's three other children.

She confirmed that aside from their daughter Mary Grace, three other heirs would be receiving a share of the properties and investments of Poe, who died intestate at 65 on Dec. 14, 2004.

"He did not leave a will, so I will have to rely on what is according to

FPJ/A6

INGLE PASCUAL

BEFORE: Boy Camara and bell bottoms

ORIGINAL JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

The transfiguration of Boy Camara

By Constantino C. Tejero
Lifestyle

AT A GARDEN party in a Quezon City subdivision, the singer on the porch started belting out Elton John's "Love Song" to piano accompaniment.

The audience of mostly doctors and radiation technologists burst into applause, and fell into debating whether the quality of the voice resembled that of Paul McCartney or Elton John.

"He's still good, huh?" said a young man drinking beer under a tree. "If you're with him during a drinking session, perhaps you wouldn't get drunk. Perhaps you'd also feel romantic..."

Agreed another: "You wouldn't want to go home. It would be like you were nailed to a cross."

Indeed, the singer had been crucified once in his youth, if only on stage. He was Boy Camara, who played the eponymous role in the first Philippine production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Directed by Fritz Infante, conducted by Oscar Yatco and choreographed by Alice Reyes, the production opened at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in September 1971, a month before the controversial rock opera opened on Broadway.

On opening day, people thronged the two-lane ramp curving up to the CCP main entrance. The production had 26 performances on weekends—a record for local theater at the time.

Camara was only 21 then, too young to play the Savior. It was just over a year after he had graduated from the University of the Philippines with a degree in fine arts (major in commercial arts), and just a year before he married his high school sweetheart, and President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law.

In other words, he was on the threshold of manhood.

Now 54, Camara has fond memories of those UP days—activism, long hair, drugs, a professor coming to school in a Roman chariot.

He remembers performances of "Jesus Christ Superstar" when some cast members were on acid or coolly passing around joints onstage.

Camara had been a band singer before he auditioned for the role of the Messiah. The closest to voice culture he had had

THE TRANSFIGURATION/ A21

ART CALAGUAS

AFTER: Long-haired no more

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the eastern sections. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated brief rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/03/27/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

In Easter message, GMA plugs VAT

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Juliet Labog-Javellana

"CHRIST'S passion gave birth to a new man; so, too, our struggle for urgent change will find transformation into a new nation with more jobs, cleaner environment, safer streets, more investments and freedom from the ills of crushing debt, endless poverty and vile corruption," President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

In her Easter message to the nation, the President likened her struggles in carrying out fiscal reforms to Christ's sufferings.

"We must stay the course, as Christ did, to eventual triumph. We must stay the course until the Philippines has turned the corner. In the end, the weak-willed and the self-serving will be changed or cast off," the President said.

Four days before lawmakers are scheduled to meet in a three-day special session to try and pass the VAT reform measures, President Arroyo exhorted Congress to take a more "decisive action" on the bills which, according to her, would be the catalyst to the Philippines' economic resurrection.

"Let us move our country toward a clear direction set by your duly elected leadership, supported by decisive acts of Congress and the unity of the people," she said in allusion to her allies in the Senate who have wavered in approving the valued-added tax (VAT) reforms she has been advocating.

The President made the appeal after some senators did not appear to be too keen on approving the Malacañang-backed VAT reforms—raising the rate from 10 percent to 12 percent and removing the exemptions on petroleum and electric power sales and professional services—during the special session that would cut short their Easter vacation.

She said she was not budging from her goal of approving the VAT reforms in the special session after her first self-imposed deadline was not met when the senators went on their Easter holiday without passing the VAT bill.

The President wished that "we finally turn the economy around to give real capital to the lives of ordinary Filipinos."

The VAT reforms are expected to contribute to the bulk of the P80 billion in new revenues the President has repeatedly claimed was the minimum needed to reduce the government's dependence on borrowings to sustain its operations and increase allocations for social services.

She said we should let "God's love rule our hearts in order to achieve meaningful change that will deliver to us peace and prosperity."

The President also touched on the government's efforts to effect change not only on the fiscal front but in the bureaucracy.

"In the end, the corrupt will be indicted and convicted and their ill-gotten gains forfeited to the government," she said.

But saying that the proposed increase in the VAT would be detrimental to the people and could fan public anger, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. warned President Arroyo against rushing approval of the measure during the three-day special session she called for the purpose.

Senate President Franklin Drilon gave assurances the special session would go on as scheduled from March 30 to April 1, with enough senators to muster a quorum.

Drilon said another briefing by energy and finance officials would be held at the Senate on Monday so that concerns raised by some senators could be addressed.

Sen. Mar Roxas said it would be better for the country's financial stability if the Senate approved the VAT bill as soon as possible.

But Pimentel said the Arroyo administration could suffer a social backlash if it pressed for the passage of the VAT bill because of its "burdensome effects on the common people who are already reeling from economic hardships."

Pimentel said the government should improve the collection of the VAT instead of raising and expanding it, noting that P144 billion in potential VAT revenues went uncollected in 2003 alone.

"Public support for VAT is almost nil while resistance to it continues to build," Pimentel said in a statement.

"I think our national leaders should face up to this reality and not let the public wrath over this tax increase reach its breaking point," he added.

Pimentel said the signs of the people's opposition to the VAT were already there, as evidenced by the protest rallies held by various groups on the Senate grounds and other places.

"The hike in the VAT rate to 12 percent is simply unacceptable and detrimental to the people, considering that they already have to shoulder increases in power and water rates, transport fares, expressway fees, tuition and other school fees, and various government service and license fees," he said.

The House of Representatives had earlier approved a bill raising the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent. The Senate is still in the period of interpellation on its ways and means committee report recommending the retention of the VAT at 10 percent but lifting exemptions on 12 goods and services, including electric power and petroleum products.

Justice theme of Muslim message

By Nash B. Maulana
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Free the innocents and punish the guilty by lawful means.

This was the Easter message that Muslim leaders aired to the government.

Former Sen. Santanina Rasul, now senior adviser for the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy (PCID), said the government's war on terror had given the Muslims a "Pontius Pilate" democracy "that sought to punish the innocent and free the confessed guilty ones."

She said recent Philippine conferences on the global campaign against terrorism had put the local antiterror war in a bad light, with the escape of known terrorists from maximum security detention cells, including at Camp Crame. She recalled that among the notorious escapees were Khadaffy Janjalani, Edwin Angeles, Fathur Roman al-Ghozi and Faisal Marohombsar.

Rasul, a graduate of the National Defense College of the Philippines, referred to the Gospels of Matthew 27:21-23; Mark 15:7, 15:11; Luke 23:18 and John 18:39-40 on Christ's trial in Gabbatha (Pavement) of the Roman Hall of Judgment.

She said this biblical story was similar to the Muslim community's predicament. Authorities would arrest suspects and put them on indefinite detention, she said, while self-confessed terrorists aired their sentiments over the radio or took over prison cells.

"Is this is a classic example of free the guilty and punish the innocent?" Rasul asked.

She said Muslim residents had complained to her that each week, an average of three members of their community were indiscriminately arrested in Metro Manila.

On Holy Thursday, Ustadz Ibrahim Bajunaid announced over Radio Mindanao Network his ruling on terrorism—that it was a product of "ignorance" of Islam's teachings by the accusers and confessed terrorists alike.

Another Islamic teacher said the crucifixion story was one of the very few differences in the Christian and Islamic faiths.

The teacher, who requested anonymity, said authorities should know that all Muslims hold Jesus in high reverence as part of the six articles of Islam.

In fact, he said, Muslims would skip the crucifixion and would exalt Christ as one among three people on earth who have been spared from death. The two others are Enoch (Genesis 5:22-23) and Elijah (II Kings 2:11), who, like Jesus (John 11:42-44), resurrected a dead person (I Kings 17:21-22) by heavenly intervention.

Another Muslim religious leader, Muhammad Ameen, urged members of terror groups "to consider mending their ways and to follow the true teachings of Islam that forbid the targeting of civilians and noncombatants even in times of war."

REMINISCENT of the first Good Friday, three penitents are nailed to crosses and hoisted side by side on a Pampanga hill.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

17 men, woman nailed to crosses in Lenten rites

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO— At least 17 men and a woman were nailed to crosses on Good Friday in three crucifixion sites here.

Of the 18 penitents, eight were crucified on separate hills in Barangay San Pedro Cutud, six in Sta. Lucia and four in San Juan. The villages, west of this city, were less than 3 km apart.

In Cutud, the established site for the local version of Calvary for 43 years, 14 men were expected to join the crucifixion rites but six did not show up.

Zoilo Castro, the village chief, presumed these penitents had already completed their *panata* (penitential vows).

Ruben Enaje, 44, now on his 19th year of taking to the cross, led his fellow *kristos*(Christs) in Cutud. They were Angelito Manansala, 37; Victor Caparas, 40; Ramir Lazaro, 32; Fernando Diaz, 59; Dionisio Pansin, 24; Arnold Maniago, 26, and Rolando Ocampo.

On a dusty hill, with crowds pressing around, the men had themselves nailed to crosses in imitation of Christ's suffering. The nails hammered into their hands and feet were as thick as pencils.

The event drew some 20,000 spectators, including 2,000 tourists from Europe, the United States and Asia.

The police and the military laid out four security gates at Cutud and deployed more than 500 personnel to secure spectators, said Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, Pampanga police director.

Woman crucified

For the first time in decades, Sta. Lucia and San Juan also hosted crucifixion rites for new kristos, including a woman, Mary Mamangun, 30.

Mamangun, a factory worker, fainted after the three-inch steel nails were pulled out of her palms.

Although the events in Sta. Lucia and San Juan were unannounced, they still drew between 3,000 and 5,000 spectators.

Meanwhile, 19 policemen facing dismissal or suspension atoned for their infractions by flagellating themselves or volunteering to be crucified also on Good Friday.

This year, the Central Luzon regional police command gave officers who had neglected their duties a novel option: "Redeem yourselves—and keep your jobs—by joining the Lenten rites," said regional commander Chief Supt. Rowland Albano. *With a report from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, AP and Reuters*

Peaceful Baguio ideal getaway for First Couple, little Mikaela

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The government's terrorism alert may have reduced the city's anticipated flock of tourists, but this did not stop President Macapagal-Arroyo from spending a leisurely vacation here with barely any security in tow.

Ms Arroyo focused her attention on *apo* (granddaughter) Mikaela Gloria Arroyo, who played golf with the First Couple.

The three-year-old hiked a nine-hole stretch of the Camp John Hay golf course on Maundy Thursday, carrying a baby putter and wearing a shirt emblazoned with the phrase "Daddy's Caddy."

A member of the Presidential Security Group was amazed. "*Ang tibay niyan. Nilakad niya ng buo kasama sina* Madam. [I'm surprised at her endurance. She walked the whole stretch accompanying her grandmother]," the PSG member told Mikaela's nanny.

After the game, Mikaela did some calisthenics, while the President met with Director General Arturo Lomibao, Philippine National Police chief, and Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, outgoing Cordillera police director.

Mikaela or "Mika," the daughter of Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, also got to view some rabbits that were on display at the Camp John Hay clubhouse.

On Good Friday, she joined her grandparents on a tour of Mines View Park.

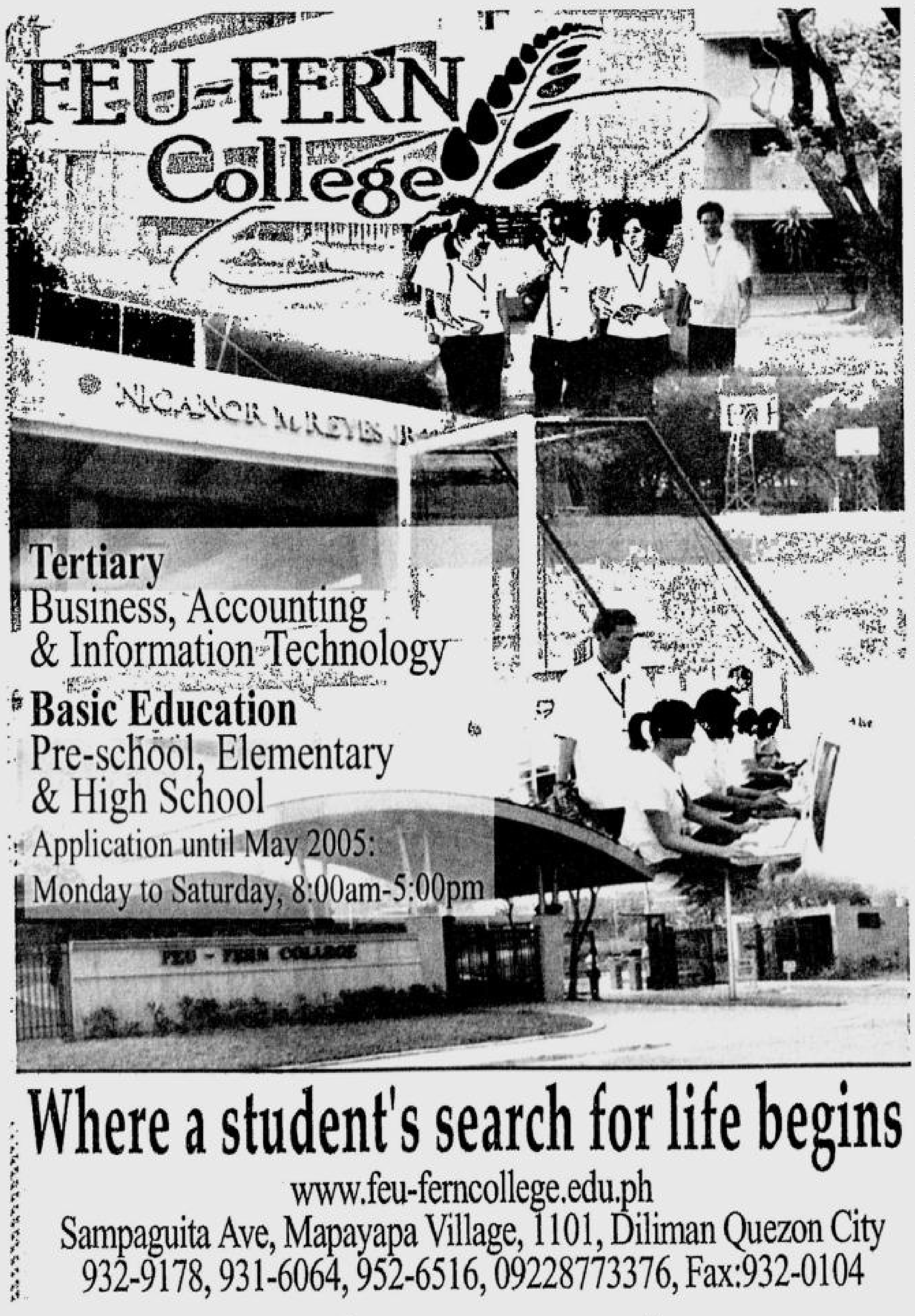
Except for a Black Saturday trip to Sagada, Mt. Province, the members of the First Family stayed at the Mansion, the President's official residence in Baguio.

In all of these activities, PSG personnel and local police stayed at a respectful distance.

"It's not that there was no heavy security [for Baguio and for the First Family], but [Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, Baguio city police director,] felt that we did not need to be so public about it," said SPO2 Viyo Hidalgo, spokesperson of the Baguio City Police Office.

"The terrorists would have won if we showed fear, so we were more subdued," Hidalgo said.

Days after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez described the city as a perennial terror target during Holy Week, the city tourism office noted a small visitor turnout here during the break.



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CALENDAR OF FESTIVALS & EVENTS 2005

Biyahe Na!

APRIL

ENCHANTED KINGDOM 10TH ANNIVERSARY: FIREWORKS COMPETITION
All weekends of April & May | Sta. Rosa, Laguna
The competition is an annual tradition that features the best fireworks suppliers in a contest to out-do each other in presenting supreme-quality pyrotechnics. EK is celebrating 10 years of providing magic and enchantment to the public. As a treat to their patrons, guests to the park will witness at least 4 fireworks presentations for all weekends of April & May.
Contact: Enchanted Kingdom T: (632) 830.2111 to 16 F: (632)612.7118
Park: (632) 843.6073 to 78 F: 843.6071

LANG-AY FESTIVAL
April 3-7 | Bontoc, Mt. Province
A showcase of the cultural heritage of the people of Mountain Province which features the history of their costumes through a street parade.
Contact: DOT-CAR, Telefax: 442.7014

GEMS OF THE PHILIPPINES (YAMAN NG PILIPINAS)
Starting April 08, once a week every Fridays | Maharlika Hall of Casino Filipino, Paranaque City
A dinner/cultural show presented by the Asian Gem Tourism Foundation, Inc. in cooperation with DOT and PAGCOR. It is an authentic cultural extravaganza showcasing the rich heritage of Filipino culture, fashion, traditions and festivities through dances, music, and songs.
Contact: Asian Gem Tourism Foundation, Inc., T: 816.1583 / 812.2610 F: 812.0313

VETERANS WEEK: ARAW NG KAGITINGAN
April 09 | Mt. Samat, Pilar Bataan
The fall of Bataan is commemorated every year, while top government officials, Japanese and American WW II veterans including their Filipino counterparts and visitors go to Mt. Samat to participate in the annual rites.
Contact: Mr. Sarsi Cuayson / (047) 791.4785 or DOT Regional Office III

PANA-AD SA NEGROS
April 09-17 | Bacolod City
It is one of the grand celebrations of the province bringing together all the ten cities and twenty two municipalities in a showcase of trade, tourism, commerce and industry, arts and culture, beauty and talent; as well as games and sports. Contact: BM Angelito Colmenares / (034) 446.1581 or DOT Regional Office VI

5TH NATIONAL CAVING CONGRESS
April 13-17 | San Miguel, Baggao, Cagayan
This congress aims to foster better relationships among cavers in the country and to help develop the knowledge and attitude of the community about the Tourism Industry.
Contact: DOT Regional Office II

COCOWAYAN FESTIVAL
April 20-25 | Isabela City
This festival is characterized by a beauty pageant, street dances and a trade fair of coconut and bamboo products abundant in Isabela.
Contact: Ms. Adeline Nava, Tourism Officer Tel. (062) 214.2472 or DOT Regional Office IX

SUNDUAN FESTIVAL
April 3rd Saturday | Brgy. Bagong Ilog & Brgy. Sumilang, Pasig City
This festival is about 2 barangays who share one patron saint, Sta. Rosa de Lima, which was said to have been found by two fishermen in Pasig City.
Contact: Ms. Josefina Alvarez, Pasig City Cultural Affairs & Tourism Office, Telefax: (02) 829.0691

KADAUGAN SA MACTAN
April 22 - 27 | Mactan, Cebu
A week-long commemoration of the historic battle between the Spanish Conquistador Fernando Magallanes and Mactan Chieftain Lapu-lapu featuring various activities highlighted by a series of musical productions culminating in a battle, This is also characterized by a food festival and live band entertainment.
Contact: DOT Regional Office VII

BUTANDING FESTIVAL
April 24-30 | Donsol, Sorsogon
A thanksgiving festival highlighted by a street parade during the "Butanding" (whaleshark) season as thanksgiving for its blessings to the people of Donsol.
Mr. Dodong Adrao
Contact: DOT Regional Office V

YAGYAG FESTIVAL
4th Week of April | Cangmating Sibulan, Negros Oriental
Yagyag is the vernacular for spawning, to lay eggs or spread, propagate and grow This festival is a showcase of local arts and culture, fashion and unity of the residents of the province.
Contact: Mr. Bing Colina, Sibulan Tourism Office, T: (035) 225.1403 or DOT Regional Office VII

PISTA'Y DAYAT
April 29-May 01 | Lingayen, Pangasinan
Thanksgiving Festival for the year's bountiful harvest from the sea, celebrated every 1st of May with various activities lined up such as a parade that features small sea crafts and bancas decked with fish, flowers and fruits.
Contact: Office of the Governor, T: (075) 542.6446 or DOT Regional Office II

IMBAYAH
April 29-May 01 | Banaue, Ifugao
This is a bi-annual thanksgiving celebration of the Ifugaos .
Contact: DOT-CAR, Telefax: (074) 442.7014

KARAKOLA FESTIVAL
April 30 | Samal Island
This festival is characterized by a variety of dances using shells as the primary medium of presentation. It is also similar to the "Mardi-gras" accompanied with colorful costumes.
Contact: DOT Regional Office XI

MAY

FLORES DE MAYO / SANTACRUZAN
May (month long) | Roxas Blvd., Manila; Glorietta Mall, Ayala Ave., Makati City; Parañaque City
A procession of maidens dressed in beautiful gowns. It is a thanksgiving event in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Contact: Makati City c/o Ms. Rosalinda Cervantes, Chief, Museum & Cultural Affairs Tel: 896.2464; Parañaque City c/o Ms. Josephine Orozca, Chief, Tourism Office Tel: 829.0691

VIVA VIGAN FESTIVAL
1st Week of May | Vigan, Ilocos Sur
A festival rich with history and heritage, cultural treasures and reminiscences.
Vigan Tourism Council/ (077) 722.2466
Contact: DOT Regional Office I

SINA-OT FESTIVAL
May 01 | Municipality of President Roxas, Capiz
A festival started in 1988 characterized by a street dancing contest among groups dancing to the tune of the Latin beat garbed in colorful Caribbean costumes.
Contact: DOT Regional Office VI

BALANGAY FESTIVAL
May 01-31 | Butuan City
A month-long fiesta celebration of Butuan City characterized by the Mutyahong beauty pageant, sportsfest and Santacruzan.
Ms. Liwliwa Esguerra, City Tourism Officer / (085) 225.4041 / (085) 342.7729
Contact: DOT Regional Office XIII

MAGAYON FESTIVAL
May 1-31 | Albay, Bicol Region
A festival in the merry month of May, showcasing Albay and its cultural heritage, trade, travel and tourism beyond majestic Mount Mayon.
Ms. Fe B. Arroyo/ (052) 480.4956
Contact: DOT Regional Office V

MANTAWI FESTIVAL
May 5 | Mandaue City, Cebu
A showcase of the city's historical heritage and identity promoting the city as an industrial and tourist hub involving a look back at the Spanish regime through street dancing, dioramas, floats, heroes and great personages as higantes, food festival and sports events.
Mrs. Tonette Pañares / City Tourism Office Tel. (032) 343.9091
Contact: DOT Regional Office VII

BATTLE OF BALETE PASS (Dalton Pass)
May 10 | Nueva Ecija
A commemoration of the day US forces captured a strategic pass that forced Yamashita to retreat to Nueva Ecija.
Contact: Department of Foreign Affairs – American Affairs, DL: 834.4738 or DOT Regional Office III

HARVEST FESTIVAL
May 11-15 | (Lucban, Sariaya, Tayabas, Gumaca), Quezon
A celebration of the feast of San Isidro de Labrador that includes a thanksgiving celebration to the Lord for the good harvest and abundance of agricultural production for the entire province.
Contact: DOT Regional Office IV

BATTLE OF BESSANG PASS
May 12 | Ilocos Sur
US Forces & Guerillas defeated the Japanese in this famous battleground.
Contact: Department of Foreign Affairs – American Affairs, DL: 834.47.38 or DOT Regional Office I

PULILAN CARABAO FESTIVAL
May 14 | Pulilan, Bulacan
This is a procession featuring carabaos kneeling in front of the church of San Isidro de Labrador in Pulilan accompanied with a parade of decorated floats.
Office of the Mayor/ (044) 795.01.28
Contact: DOT Regional Office III

SANGGUTAN FESTIVAL
May 18 | Barugo, Leyte
A dance of local wine enthusiasts honoring the age-old process of wine-making
Contact: Mayor Juliana Villasin, Barugo, Leyte, T: (053) 331.4019 or DOT Regional Office VIII

LUBI - LUBI FESTIVAL
May 22 | Gingoog City
A cultural dance festival of the city featuring the coconut as one of its major agricultural products.
Contact: DOT Regional Office X, DL: (8822) 723.696 or (8822) 726.394 / (088) 856.40.48

MANGGAHAN SA GUIMARAS
May 22 | Guimaras
A commemorative celebration of the anniversary of Guimaras as a province and to showcase the premier produce of the province (mango) and the various local attractions.
Contact: Ms. Angie Gabinete, Cell: (0919) 409.08.78 or DOT Regional Office VI

PASALABUK FESTIVAL/ LINGGO NG DIPOLOG
May 24 | Dipolog City
Festival starts a week earlier & culminates on July 1 with colorful ethnic-inspired street dancing.
Contact: Ms. Cecil Bilog, Tourism Officer (065) 212.24.85 or DOT Regional Office IX

BULAKLAKAN SA GEN SAN
May 29-30 | General Santos City
This event is characterized by a Santacruzan Festival, Sagalas and an art selection on the best of Bulaklakan sa Gensan.
Contact: DOT Regional Office XII

PHILIPPINES' BESTS (BEST OF THE REGIONS SHOWCASE)
Year-round | Clamshell I, Intramuros, Manila
A DOT program geared towards developing tourism products (destinations, events, services, souvenir items, entertainment, and facilities) with a high degree of excellence. The centerpiece of this PHILIPPINES' BESTS Program is the Best of the Regions Showcase in Intramuros where tourism products of the different regions will be presented.
Contact: Respective DOT Regional Offices or Regional Monitoring Staff, Telefax. 524.24.21
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Beat The Odds!

MEDIAWISE COMMUNICATIONS

After the UK, US, Australia issue warnings

By Volt Contreras

AFTER the United Kingdom discouraged its citizens from traveling to certain parts of the Philippines, the United States and Australia followed suit by renewing their travel advisories over the Lenten break that saw local authorities on heightened alert over possible terrorist attacks.

The three major allies in the global war on terrorism cautioned their citizens against non-essential travel, particularly to parts of Mindanao, with the US warning against "multiple attacks" by groups linked to the terror network al-Qaida.

"Terrorist groups, including the Jemaah Islamiyah and the Abu Sayyaf Group and radical elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are planning multiple attacks throughout the Philippines," the US state department said, as quoted by ABS-CBN News.

Australia on Thursday told its citizens to "exercise extreme caution, particularly in areas known to be frequented by foreigners, including coastal resorts."

"We continue to receive reports that terrorists in the region are planning attacks. Recent reports suggest that terrorists may be in the final stages of planning an attack. Attacks could occur anytime, anywhere in the Philippines," said the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Canberra's advisory also described as potential terrorist targets "infrastructure associated with the Philippine government such as public transport, airports, sea ports and public buildings."

Australians were also told to take particular care in areas known to be frequented by foreigners, such as embassies, shopping malls, clubs, hotels, restaurants, bars, schools, places of worship, outdoor recreation events and tourist areas.

US ties 'sweet and sour' – solon

By Philip C. Tubeza

SWEET and sour.

This was how House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles described RP-US relations.

Nograles said American officials were becoming "very arrogant," after he expressed dissatisfaction over US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone's apology for the alleged maltreatment of Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito by US immigration officials at the San Francisco International Airport last week.

"It's the sweet and sour principle they use. They are not sincere. It is a rip-off," Nograles said yesterday in a statement.

Nograles said while Ricciardone kept on apologizing to the Philippine government, American officials, particularly from the US department of state, continued to criticize the country.

He said American officials were getting very arrogant "as if they ruled the world and Filipinos must pay homage to them."

Nograles noted that Ejercito's maltreatment came after a series of criticisms on the country by US state department officials and the US threat to cut its development aid to the Philippines by 30 percent next year.

"It's time to remind them that if we want to win against terrorism, we must work as a team. They can't dictate on others or show disrespect to sovereign nations and [their] public officials. Who do they think they are?" Nograles said.

Nograles said that while Americans wanted support from other countries, they "abuse their allies and conveniently ignore" what these countries have done for the US.

"The Americans have amnesia. They apparently have forgotten what the Filipino people had done for them during World War II. They use the Philippines when it is convenient for them and [then] drop us like a hot potato," Nograles said.

He added that if the Americans could not remember "what friends are for," the Philippines "should look for new and sincere allies who would [be there for us] in good and bad times."

On March 20, Ejercito, wife of deposed President Joseph Estrada, complained that she was detained for one-and-a-half hours at the San Francisco Airport and asked such questions as whether she thought her husband would be convicted of plunder.

Various US entities promptly offered apologies and regrets over the incident after the Philippine ambassador to the US Alberto del Rosario lodged a formal protest.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said that Ricciardone called him up to apologize. He said that Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo also reported that the US state department in Washington had also apologized.

Cops foil try to burn mall

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Policemen here foiled an attempt to set fire to the Koronadal Commercial Center with the arrest of a suspect carrying an improvised incendiary device on Wednesday afternoon.

Chief Supt. Antonio Billones, Central Mindanao Police director, identified the suspect as Abdul Kahar, alias Abdullah Wahab Piang. He did not say if Kahar was a member of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

Billones said that policemen became suspicious after Kahar refused to be frisked as he was entering KCC mall.

The suspect managed to get past the security detail on the ground floor but was stopped on the second floor, where another detail was checking all bags and conducting body searches on mallgoers.

Also seized from Kahar was a cellular phone, which police said had been modified to trigger the incendiary device.
Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 27, 2004
Easter Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 10:34,37-43

Peter spoke to the people, "Truly, I realize that God does not show partiality. No doubt you have heard of the event that occurred throughout the whole country of the Jews, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism John preached. You know how God anointed Jesus the Nazarean with Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all who were under the devil's power, because God was with him; we are witnesses of all that he did throughout the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem itself. Yet they put him to death by hanging him on a wooden cross.

"But God raised him to life on the third day and let him manifest himself, not to all the people, but to the witnesses that were chosen beforehand by God—to us who ate and drank with him after his resurrection from death. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to bear witness that he is the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. All the prophets say of him, that everyone who believes in him has forgiveness of sins through his Name."

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Sisters and brothers, if you are risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on earthly things. For you have died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, reveals himself, you also will be revealed with him in Glory.

Gospel: John 20:1-9

On the first day after the sabbath, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark and she saw that the stone blocking the tomb had been moved away. She ran to Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved. And she said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have laid him."

Peter then set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down and saw the linen cloths lying flat, but he did not enter.

Then Simon Peter came following him and entered the tomb; he, too, saw the linen cloths lying flat. The napkin, which had been around his head was not lying flat like the other linen cloths but lay rolled up in its place. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and believed. Scripture clearly said that he must rise from the dead, but they had not yet understood that.

Commentary

It begins in the morning and Mary of Magdala and others go to the tomb, but the tomb is open and she runs to Peter and the other disciple that Jesus loved (never named because it is each of us, baptized) with the terrible announcement. The body of the Lord is gone. Peter and the other disciple run, Peter lagging behind. The other disciple waits for him to catch up and waits outside while Peter goes in, sees and does not understand. But the beloved disciple enters, sees and believes! The wonder and the power of the resurrection is beginning to be uncovered, the disciples stumbling towards understanding and the realization that he is alive and that death could not hold him bound—the Lord of life. We too, must begin by running to the empty tomb and seeing and hopefully believing. Lord, may we be your beloved disciples that wait on others and that see and believe because of love and faithfulness and your Word to us.

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FPJ was no blockbuster in real life, says widow

From page A1

the law, and what is to my better judgment," said Roces, 64.

"I have no problem with that," she said with a laugh.

Poe, acknowledged as the King of Philippine Movies in his time and variously known as "Da King" or "FPJ," starred in over 200 films in the last 50 years, playing the role of an ordinary man with extraordinary courage and compassion.

He challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May 2004 election and was found to have lost by a million votes. An electoral protest filed by his widow in his behalf is pending at the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

At his bedside

The INQUIRER reported in January that Roces had Poe's three other children called to his bedside before he died as a result of a massive stroke at St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City.

A source named the three as Michael Jordan, Ronian and Lovey, and said their mothers were former movie starlets. But apart from Ana Marin, Ronian's mother, the other women have not been identified.

After Poe's funeral on Dec. 22, Roces again invited his children to a lunch at the Chinatown restaurant in Quezon City (not in Chinatown in Binondo, Manila, as previously reported), where Mary Grace formally introduced them to their cousins.

No sign

Following the lunch, Michael Jordan, Ronian and Lovey were brought to the FPJ Studios, also in Quezon City, where they were given a tour and introduced to the management and staff as "the children of FPJ."

There had been no sign of what was to come, Roces said.

On Dec. 12, Poe was at the FPJ Studios supervising the packaging of relief goods for the families displaced by landslides and floods in Quezon and Aurora provinces when he fell unconscious.

He never recovered.

"When I left that morning, there was no trace at all, no hint [that he was not feeling well]," Roces said.

She recalled that she was at their farm in Batangas when she was told to return to Manila because her husband had suffered a stroke.

In retrospect, Roces said Poe had been suffering a stiff neck and was also complaining about his eyeglasses. Unknown to her, he had begun taking medication for high blood pressure.

Roces said she received a letter from Ms Arroyo expressing sympathy when Poe was at the hospital's intensive care unit, and another sending condolences, along with a rosary, when he passed away.

The President also sent a wreath for Poe. But angry fans tore it apart and torched the white blossoms that were delivered to the Sto. Domingo Church, where the actor's remains lay in a long wake until his dramatic funeral at the North Cemetery in Manila on Dec. 22.

Like a movie

It was the end of Poe's life that was "*parang sine* (like a movie)," Roces said, noting the great number of fans and other mourners who patiently queued for their turn to pay their last respects to Da King.

She said his death also revealed certain things that many people—including herself—did not know about him. Mourners approached her to tell her, for example, that her husband had helped build a school somewhere, or that he had put someone's child through school.

Not that Roces was all that surprised. "Because that is FPJ," she said. Throughout the interview, she used the present tense in describing her husband.

"We have experienced how it's like being on the receiving end," she said by way of explaining his reticence concerning his acts of charity. "It's painful if the help extended to you is announced to everyone else. This is probably why that was his practice. He is sensitive to the feelings of the recipient."

Man of few words

"FPJ does not explain himself. He doesn't bother to impress, or to go out of his way to impress. By nature, he is a man of few words," Roces said in response to remarks that her husband did not accept an invitation by the INQUIRER to speak about his platform of government during the election campaign last May.

But she wouldn't have wanted to be his spokesperson either, she said, laughing over the suggestion that she would have been a cinch for the job.

"I am his wife and you wouldn't want a wife speaking out for her husband," she said. "That would project the impression that the wife is meddling, or she would end up as the power behind the president."

But Roces admitted getting irritated over the media coverage of the presidential campaign. "I wanted to answer everything but he did not want me to," she said in a serious tone.

King already

Roces said her husband never wanted to become president.

"He felt it is a calling, not an ambition," she said, and continued with a chuckle: "After all, he is king already."

Explaining Poe's "disappearance" after the campaign and Ms Arroyo's dawn proclamation in June, Roces said: "He was truly disappointed because it was obvious that there was cheating. But it's not true that he was sulking."

She said her husband had stayed home, watching tapes and television and just lounging around, talking with her, and sharing his thoughts over just about anything.

And that's the part that she said she missed most, particularly because they were always on the phone with each other. "I really feel his absence because there is nobody else I can talk to on the other line," she said.

But Roces was adamant: There was no way she would join politics to take her husband's place in the opposition.

"It's not because I am the widow of FPJ that I have the right to inherit the support that was given him by those who believe that he could make a good president," she said. "*Asawa lang ako* (I'm just his wife)."

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Correction

IN THE March 24 issue, the caption of a front page photo erroneously identified the person beside the Rostro de Jesus sculpture. The person in the photo was Fr. Melanio Voluya, one of the founding members of the Missionaries of Jesus, not artist Rey Contreras.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Hero's burial awaits cop slain in Taguig siege

SUGPON, Ilocos Sur—A burial befitting a hero, that's what PO3 Abel Areola will get.

Director General Arturo Lomibao, Philippine National Police chief, ordered Ilocos Sur police officials to give Areola, the lone fatality on the government side in the March 15 Camp Bagong Diwa siege, a hero's burial on March 30.

"He will be given a hero's burial. I am now ordering the provincial director here (Senior Supt. Mario Subagan) to comply with this order," Lomibao told reporters on Wednesday.

Areola, 25, was killed when he and other PNP Special Action Force members stormed the Camp Bagong Diwa prison in Taguig City to end the standoff started by inmates who were members of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

At least 22 prisoners, including top Abu Sayyaf leaders, were killed in the siege.

Not friendly fire

Lomibao belied reports Areola had been killed by fellow officers protecting high officials who had entered the prison after they had thought it was safe to do so. Areola was supposedly being used as a shield by an Abu Sayyaf member who was shot and killed by the officers, hitting Areola in the process.

"I would like to belie the report that [Areola] was killed by friendly fire. What happened was an inmate was able to grab his gun and use it in shooting him," Lomibao said. Other reports had said Areola fell in the first volley that greeted the attacking policemen.

"We will give [Areola] the appropriate awards, the highest award possible because we feel he had done a [great] service to our country," Lomibao said.

Areola's family in Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur, had appealed for financial help, saying they did not have enough money to bury the policeman.

Lomibao assured the family the PNP would help them and give them all the benefits due Areola.

Areola was earlier awarded the Medalya ng Sugatang Magiting (Wounded Personnel Medal) and was posthumously promoted.*Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

SC rules seamen not regular workers

SEAFARERS are contractual workers and cannot enjoy the benefits due regular employees, according to a recent Supreme Court ruling which overturned a decision by the National Labor Relations Commission.

The high tribunal denied for lack of merit the petition of a seafarer who claimed he was illegally dismissed by his employer after he became unfit to work due to an accident while on vacation. The sailor had initially won his case before the NLRC.

The Supreme Court's Second Division said seafarers like petitioner Roberto Ravago were classified under the Labor Code as contractual employees, or hired only for a fixed duration.

Peculiar, unique

"Constrained by the nature of their employment which is quite peculiar and unique in itself, it is for the mutual interest of both the seafarer and the employer why the employment status must be contractual only or for a certain period of time," the SC's March 14 ruling penned by Justice Romeo Callejo Sr. said.

Ravago had sued his employer, Esso Eastern Marine Ltd., after the company refused to rehire him following his accident.

He argued that the non-renewal of his contract was equivalent to an illegal dismissal, thus entitling him to back wages and separation pay. He asserted that he was not merely a contractual employee because Esso had continuously rehired him for 23 years.

But Esso countered that as a seafarer, Ravago was hired under a fixed-term contract and that no law or administrative rule required the rehiring of a seafarer upon the termination of his contract.

The NLRC ruled in favor of Ravago, but Esso later won after elevating the case to the Court of Appeals.

The CA declared that Ravago was not a regular employee and that the company was under no obligation to rehire him. Ravago appealed to the SC. *Volt Contreras*

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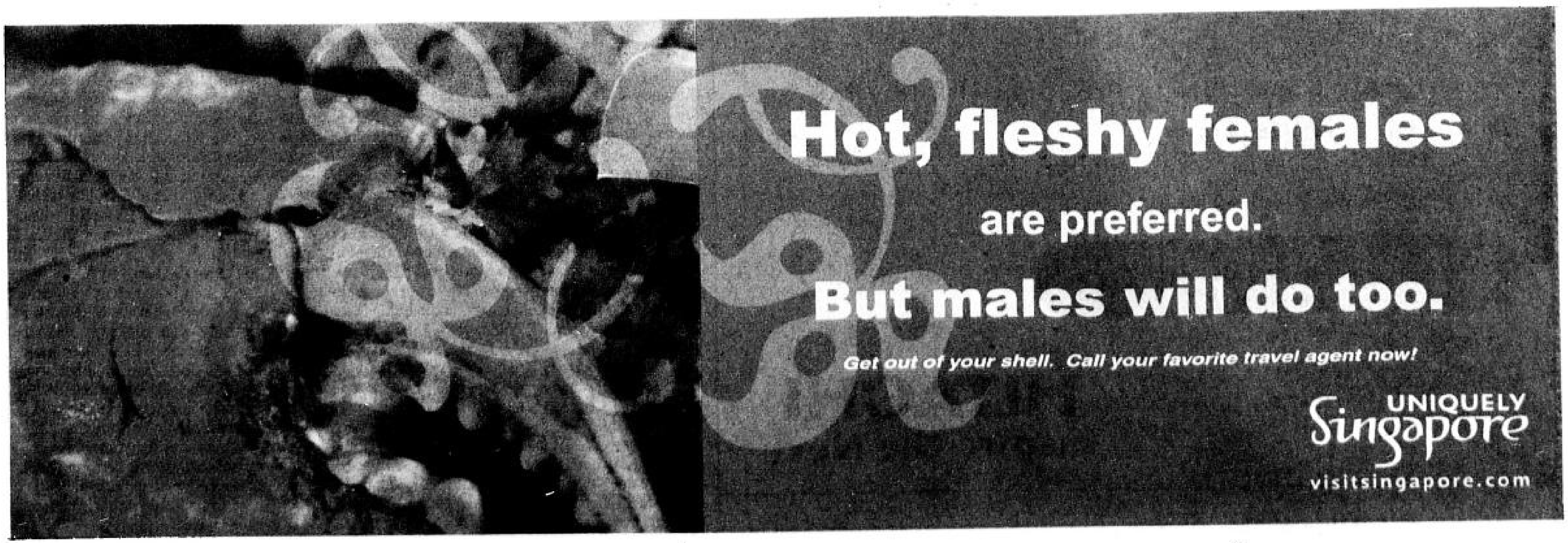


The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US vows to make India a major world power...

WASHINGTON—The United States unveiled plans Friday to help India become a "major world power in the 21st century" even as it announced moves to beef up the military of New Delhi's nuclear rival, Pakistan.

Under the plans, Washington offered to step up a strategic dialogue with India to boost missile defense and other security initiatives as well as high-tech cooperation and expanded economic and energy cooperation.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has presented to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh the Bush administration's outline for a "decisively broader strategic relationship" between the world's oldest and largest democracies, a senior US official said.

"Its goal is to help India become a major world power in the 21st century," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We understand fully the implications, including military implications, of that statement."

He did not elaborate but noted that South Asia was critical, with China on one side, Iran and the Middle East on the other, and a somewhat turbulent Central Asian region to the north.

The US-India plan was announced as Washington decided Friday to sell an undetermined number of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan under a plan to prop up Pakistan on the political, military and economic fronts.

Rice discussed the US-India plan with Singh during her Asian visit earlier this month but it was not revealed to the public.

The US proposal culminates efforts to repair relations strained by India's May 1998 nuclear tests.

The healing process began when Bill Clinton visited India in March 2000 near the end of his presidency, as the first president to go there since Jimmy Carter in 1978. He eased sanctions on purchases of high-tech equipment and broke into a market formerly served by India's Cold War ally Russia.

President George W. Bush's administration, under a so-called "Next Steps in Strategic Partnership," pushed that process forward by completely lifting sanctions, including military sales, in return for India's support on the US-led war on terrorism.

"This year the administration made a judgment that the 'Next Steps in Strategic Partnership,' though very important, wasn't broad enough to really encompass the kind of things we needed to do to take this relationship where it needed to go, and so the president and the secretary (Rice) developed the outline for a decisively broader strategic relationship," the US official said.

Bush was inviting Prime Minister Singh to visit him in July in Washington and the US leader would also like to travel to South Asia later this year or early next year, he said.

Those presidential meetings, he added, would "be consolidating an enhanced dialogue" on the strategic, energy and economic tracks with India.

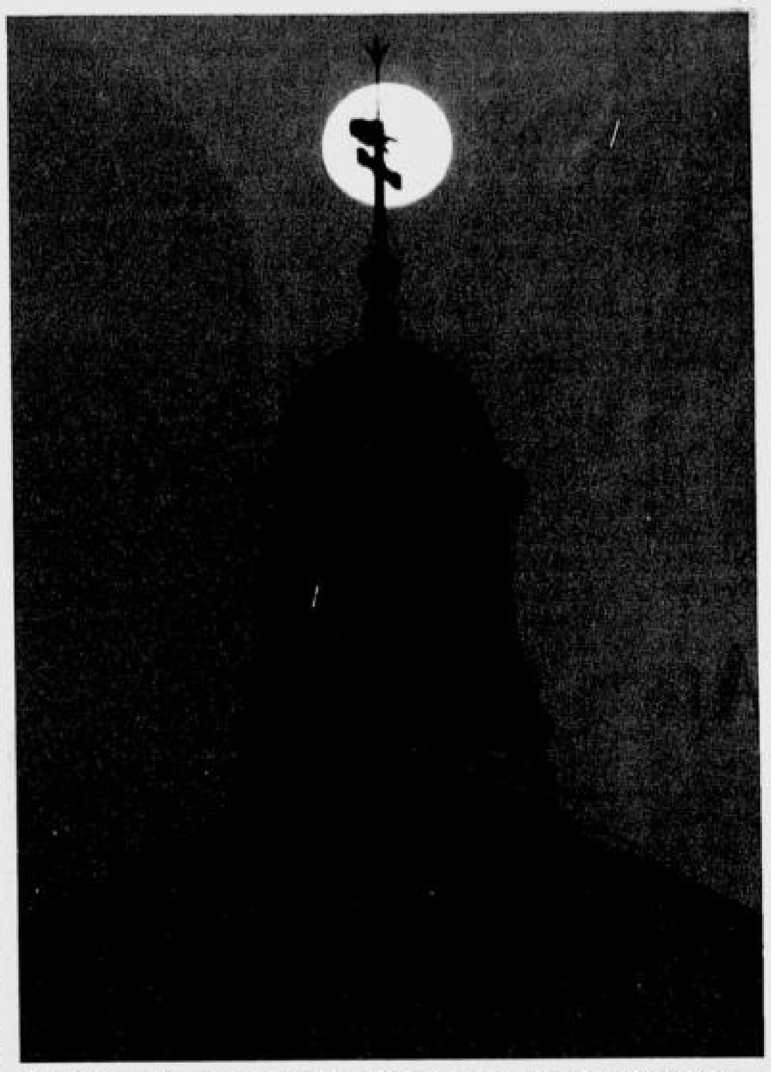
The strategic dialogue will include global issues, regional security matters, Indian defense requirements, expanding high-tech cooperation and even working toward US-India defense co-production, the official explained.

The United States, he said, was prepared to "respond positively" to an Indian request for information on American initiatives to sell New Delhi the next generation of multirole combat aircraft.

"That's not just F-16s. It could be F-18s," he said.

Deputy state department spokesperson Adam Ereli said US corporations were now "free to talk to India" about whatever aircraft they could offer.

"It'll be up to India to decide what it wants. And then negotiations, if it does decide it wants something from us, based on its needs, would proceed from there," Ereli said. *AFP*



A BIRD perches atop a church as the moon rises on the eve of Good Friday in New Delhi, India, March 24. The world's most populous Hindu country acknowledges the Easter festivities as a public holiday, which also gives non-Christians a time for recreation. REUTERS

...while announcing plans to sell F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan

WASHINGTON—The United States announced plans Friday to sell F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan despite objections from Islamabad's nuclear-rival India.

The sale was part of a new strategic approach to the troubled subcontinent that was presented to both countries by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on her visit there earlier this month, a senior US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

President George W. Bush on Friday telephoned Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to inform him of the decision, White House spokesperson Dana Perino said.

Singh expressed to Bush his "great disappointment," saying it could have "negative consequences" for India's security, according to the Indian leader's spokesperson, Sanjaya Baru, in New Delhi.

But the US official said "we don't see any impact on the relevant military balances in the region," adding that the United States was prepared to sell the F-16 and the more sophisticated F-18 fighters to India if they wanted them.

The sale to Islamabad was to make Pakistan more secure, the official said. "It's in the interest of India, Pakistan and the United States that Pakistan feels secure."

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947 and came close for a fourth clash in 2002.

Pakistan, which has become a major ally of the United States in its war on terror after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, said it would buy the latest version of the F-16.

"We welcome this good gesture and it shows good friendship between Pakistan and the United States," Information Minister Sheikh Rashid said in Islamabad.

The US official said although the number of F-16's offered to Pakistan would be "relatively small, there is no set limit on what the United States is going to be willing to sell."

US officials said Congress was notified Friday of the sale to Pakistan, which already has such combat aircraft.

Democratic Rep. Tom Lantos said Pakistan had been a valuable ally in the war against terrorism and gave "strong" support to the F-16 sale.

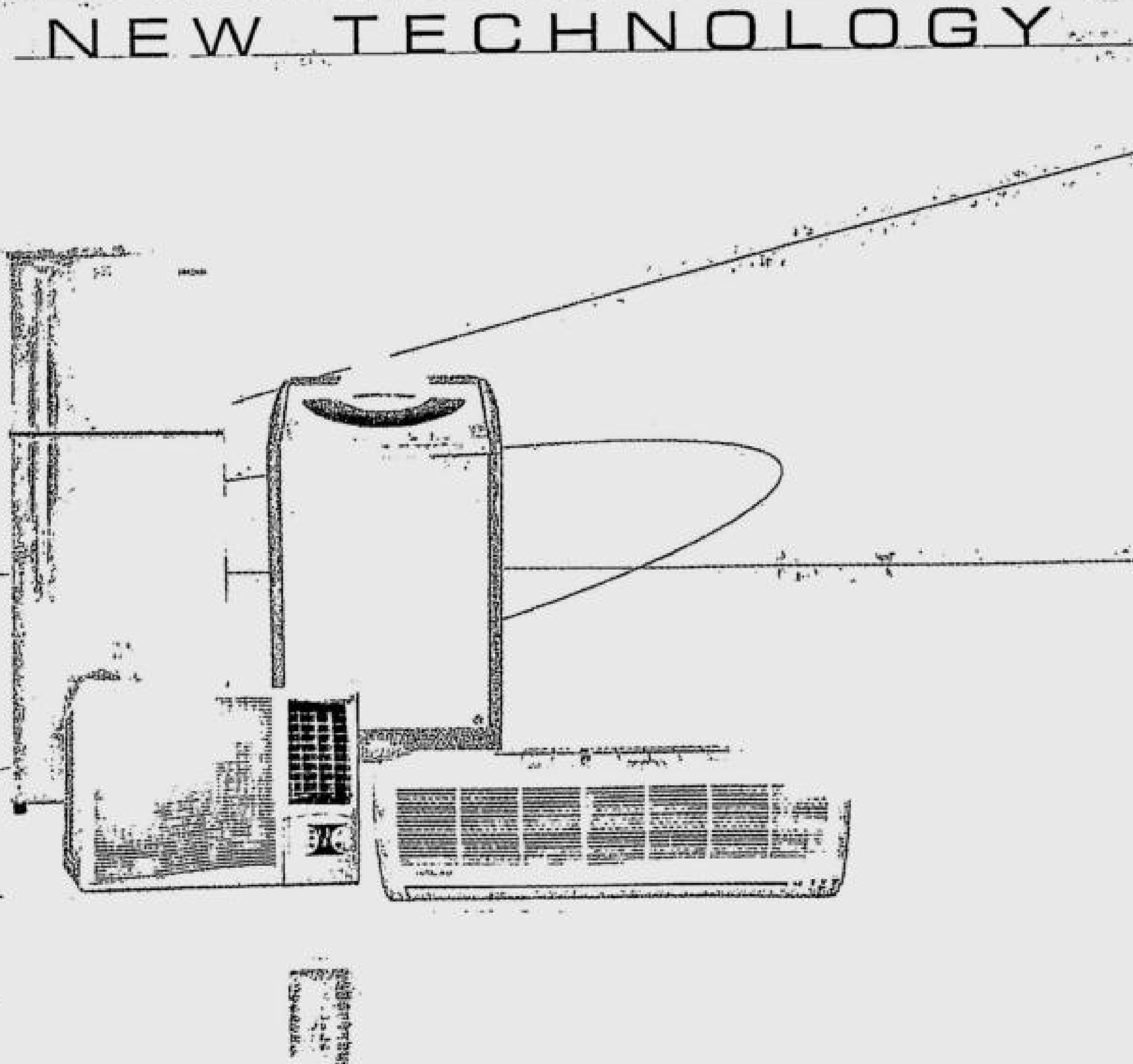
Islamabad reportedly wants to buy up to 25 additional units.

It has been seeking additional multirole fighter jets since 1990 when a deal for 40 such planes fell through because of US concerns over the country's nuclear program.

But relations between the United States and Pakistan warmed up after Islamabad helped the Americans topple the hardline Taliban regime in Afghanistan in 2001.

India says arming Pakistan with the sophisticated warplanes would upset the military balance in the region and cast a shadow over the slow dialogue process under way between the nuclear-armed neighbors.

Pramit Mitra, an analyst with the Center of Strategic and International Studies, said among key questions about the sale were: the number of planes to be sold to Pakistan and whether they would have a capability to arm nuclear weapons in mid-air. *AFP*



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US court rejects Schiavo appeal

PINELLAS PARK, Florida—A federal court rejected yet another appeal by the family of a brain-damaged Florida woman to resume feeding her a week after her husband ordered her not to be fed, leaving them virtually out of options.

"The plaintiffs have been unable to come forward in their second amended complaint with any new claims palpably alleging the denial of a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States," said Judge Charles Wilson of the US Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, one of a three-judge panel deciding the case.

The US court said the family of the woman had presented no new argument for removing her husband, Michael Schiavo, as her legal guardian after he ordered her feeding tube removed one week ago.

The case of Terri Schiavo has held the US public, politicians and media fixated on the fate of the 41-year-old woman whose brain was damaged 15 years ago and who has been in a persistent vegetative state ever since.

It took a law passed by an extraordinary session of Congress and signed by US President George W. Bush to move the case from Florida state court to the federal courts, so far to no avail. *AFP*

Frail Pope makes virtual Good Friday appearance

ROME—A frail, "suffering" and silent Pope John Paul II appeared to pilgrims attending the annual Good Friday reenactment of Christ's crucifixion at the Roman Colosseum late Friday, joining them via a video link from his chapel in the Vatican.

"I am spiritually with you at the Colosseum," the Pontiff said in a message read out to the congregation by Cardinal Camillo Ruini, his deputy for the diocese of Rome.

The Pope, whose recovery from a throat operation is complicated by Parkinson's disease, said he was offering his "suffering so that God's wish can be realized and his word go forth among the people."

The Pope, who once again made no attempt to speak, was shown from behind, seated in an armchair wearing his vestments, signifying that he was participating in the ceremony. A television screen in front of him showed the ceremony at the ancient Roman amphitheater across the city, where many of the early Christian martyrs were killed.

"In my way I am close to those who, at this time, are tried by suffering. I pray for each one of you," according to the message read by Ruini, which sparked lengthy applause.

At the end of the long ceremony, the Pope, who appeared alone in the video shots, took a wooden cross in his hands in a symbolic joining with the event at the arena, once again moving the congregation to applaud long and loudly.

It was the first time in his 26-year pontificate that John Paul II was physically absent from the Way of the Cross ceremony.

The Pope has already missed the Mass of the Last Supper on Thursday, and the Palm Sunday mass which began the Easter rites, the most important in the Church calendar. *AFP*

Toll in Ebola-like virus in Angola rises to 115

LUANDA—The death toll in an outbreak of the Ebola-like Marburg virus in Angola rose to 115, including many children and two Italian and Vietnamese doctors, health officials said Friday, as the disease spread to the capital Luanda.

Three-quarters of the deaths were children under the age of five, according to the UN's World Health Organization.

"Until today, the number of sick in hospital in Uige is 118 of whom 113 are dead in the wake of the Marburg epidemic," Carlos Alberto, a health ministry spokesperson said from Uige, about 300 km north of Luanda.

In Luanda, the Vita Mvemba, the head of the provincial health department, said two others had died in the capital and five cases of the potentially fatal disease reported. The fatalities included a Vietnamese doctor, according to Alberto.

Health officials said 123 cases had been reported since the outbreak erupted less than six months ago.

Mvemba stressed that the government was trying to fight growing panic.

"We must avoid panic. I have learnt that the Italians are planning to flee Angola and that mothers are preventing their children from going to school," he said.

The Italian non-governmental organization Medici con Africa Cuamm from Rome identified the deceased Italian doctor as pediatrician Maria Bonino, who worked for the United Nations and had been a volunteer in Africa for the past 11 years.

She had been practicing for the past two years in the Uige provincial hospital, the organization said.

"It's complete panic here," said Quiala Godi, the number two health official in Uige province. "In the beginning, only children were affected but now it's hitting adults.

"It's difficult to know the exact number of the ailing because people don't want to go to hospital and we have to find them in their homes," Godi said by telephone. *AFP*

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BRAD Pitt and Jennifer Aniston in a May 13, 2004 file photo. REUTERS

Aniston files for divorce

LOS ANGELES—Jennifer Aniston has filed for divorce from Brad Pitt, quashing hopes of a happy ending for one of Hollywood's hottest couples.

The star of hit TV series "Friends" filed for divorce in the Los Angeles Superior Court Friday, three months after she and Pitt jointly announced a separation.

The filing gave no indication on how the couple plan to divide their extensive assets, which include several multimillion-dollar homes and a production company.

Aniston met Hollywood leading man Pitt on a set-up dinner date in 1998 and the two were married in July 2000 in a lavish oceanside ceremony featuring fireworks and live music by passionate French band The Gipsy Kings.

The terse announcement of their separation on Jan. 7 sparked shockwaves and a rain of speculation about the cause of the breakup.

Could it have been differences over the ideal moment to have a child? Was it interference from a growing friendship between Pitt and sultry actress Angelina Jolie?

The break came as Pitt, 41, reportedly wanted to start a family, while Aniston, who has since turned 36, wanted to put childbearing off to focus on her career.

People west coast editor Todd Gold said that was part of the reason. She also wanted to make sure her marriage would last, he said.

Then, there is speculation that Jolie, named sexiest woman by Esquire last year, caught Pitt's eye, as they worked together on "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."

"There was no confirmation that he had an affair with Angelina Jolie," Jess Cagle, the People editor, said.

"We do know that a respect developed and they became friends and I'm not sure that sat well with Jennifer Aniston."

No, no and no, the couple said in a joint announcement of their separation on Jan. 7.

"For those who follow these sorts of things, we would like to explain that our separation is not the result of any speculation reported by the tabloid media. This decision is the result of much thoughtful consideration.

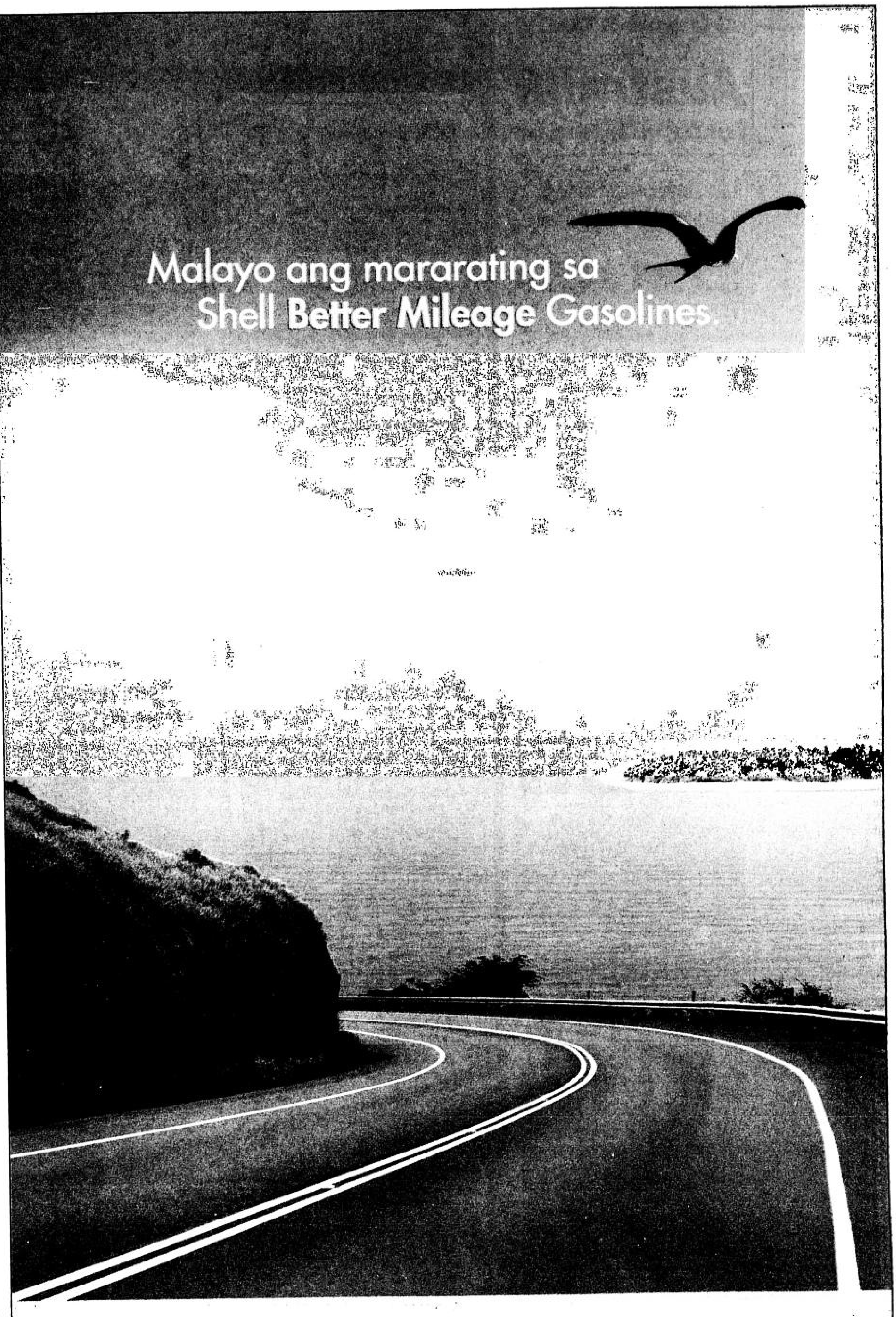
"We happily remain committed and caring friends with great love and admiration for one another."

The separation came after four and a half years of marriage and months of rumor prompted when Aniston showed up at the opening of "Ocean's Twelve" without her wedding ring.

Aniston became one of America's most recognizable stars for her role in the hit television sitcom "Friends" which finally went off air in 2004 after a 10-year run. She won a Golden Globe and an Emmy for her portrayal of Rachel Green on the show.

Post "Friends," her career appeared headed for a healthy transition, as she has several movie projects in the works. Her last hit film, "Along Came Polly," a comedy co-starring Ben Stiller, grossed $86 million in the United States.

Forbes magazine named her the most powerful star on the planet in 2003 in its annual "Celebrity 100" list. In 2002, she made $35 million, according to Forbes. *AFP*



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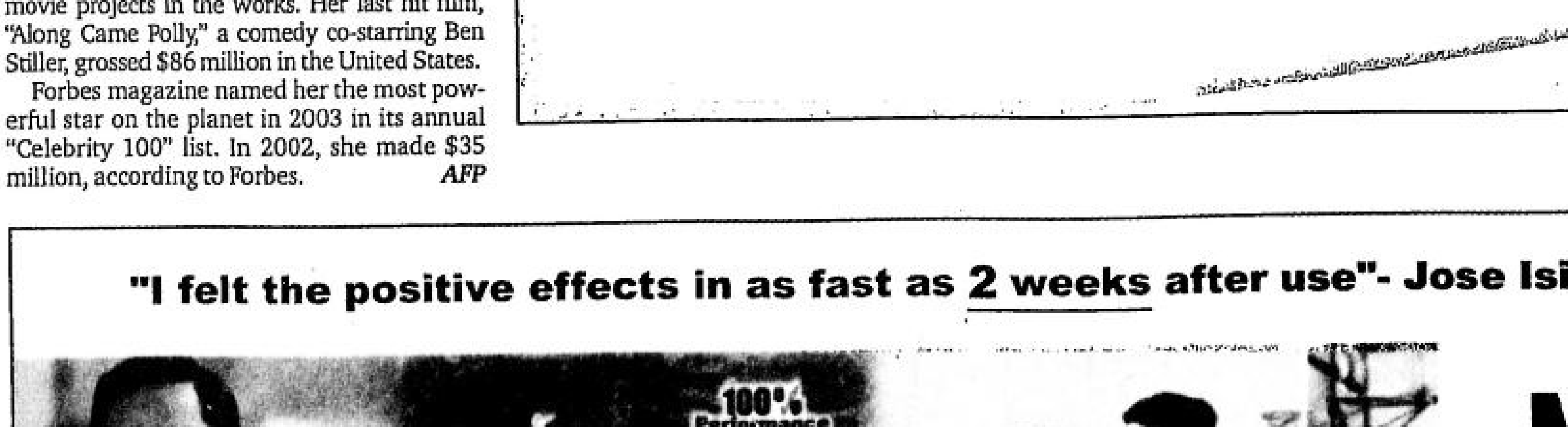

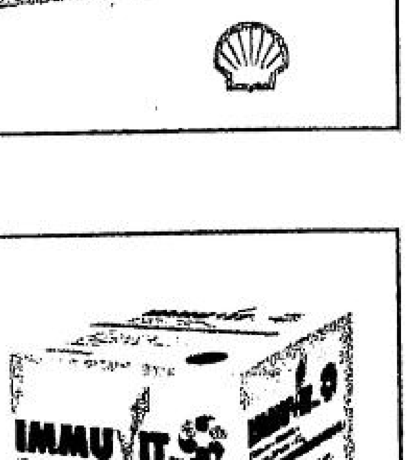

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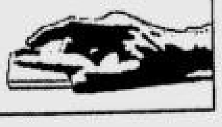

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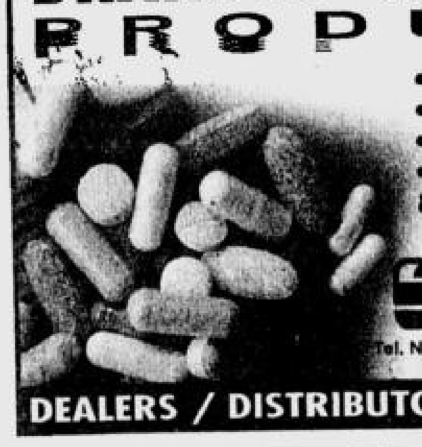

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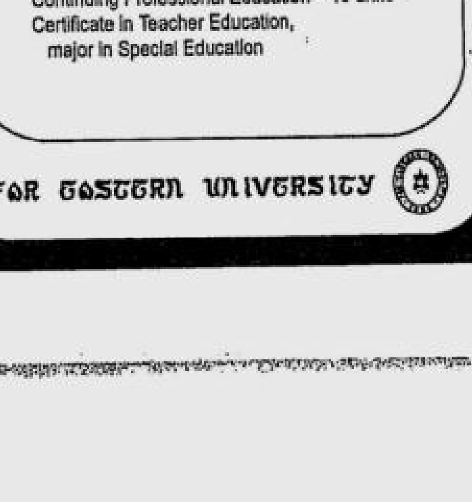

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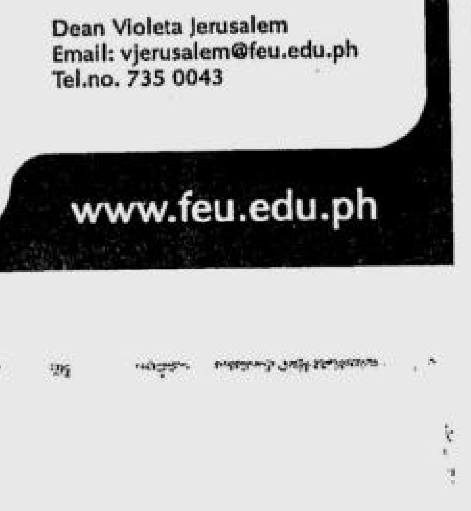

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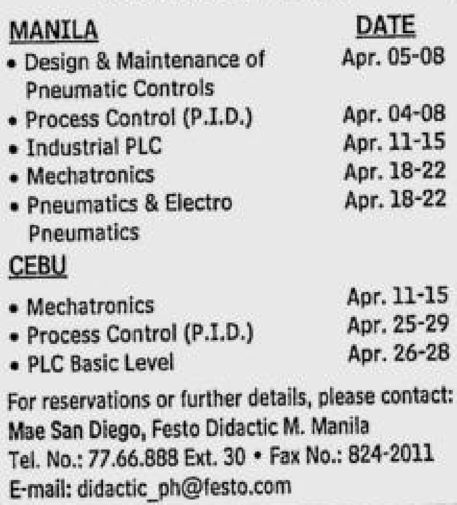

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PRINCESS Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier III following their marriage in Monaco on April 19, 1956. Many see Rainier's ailing health as the final chapter of a fairy tale romance between an American movie queen and a European prince. AP

Monaco's Prince Rainier on life support

MONACO—Prince Rainier, the 81-year-old ruler of Monaco, was fighting for his life in intensive care Friday, his vital organs failing and an artificial respirator keeping him alive, palace officials said.

"Due to the weakness of his cardiac, respiratory and kidney functions, the prognosis of the sovereign's health is uncertain," according to a statement by the palace in the wealthy Mediterranean territory.

The prince's condition was "worrying," it added.

Rainier III, Europe's longest reigning monarch, was rushed into intensive care on Tuesday when his health took a dramatic turn for the worse.

He was in Monaco's heart and thorax center, where he had been undergoing treatment since March 7 for a recurrent breathing problem.

The prince's three children by his late wife, the US film star Grace Kelly, have been taking turns at his bedside, and he has also received visits from Monaco's archbishop and a parish priest.

Prince Albert, his unwed 47-year-old son, was to succeed Rainier as ruler, having been carefully groomed since childhood and increasingly given official-responsibilities in recent years.

Palace officials said Rainier remained on artificial respiration and that his condition had not changed since he was admitted into intensive care.

French President Jacques Chirac called Albert on Friday to "inquire about Prince Rainier's condition, "the president's office said, and "express his concern and friendship for him, his family, and the people of Monaco."

The prince's doctors consulted with the head of the medical service of the La Pitie Salpetriere Hospital in Paris, Jean-Charles Piette, late Thursday because of "the gravity of the situation.

The consensus of the doctors was "on the need to pursue the treatment begun," the palace said, without elaborating.

A new medical bulletin was to be issued later, the statement said.

On Friday evening Albert, Princess Caroline and her husband Prince Ernst-August of Hanover briefly appeared at the palace's balcony as a group taking part in a Good Friday procession marched below.

Rainier is the second longest-reigning monarch in the world after Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

He ascended to power in the tiny Mediterranean territory in 1949, three years before Queen Elizabeth II took the throne of England.

After years as a jet-setting playboy, he boosted the glamour quotient of his little state when he married Kelly in 1956. She died in a car crash in the principality in 1982.

Monaco was founded when Rainier's Grimaldi dynasty took control of the principality in 1297. The family was deposed after the French Revolution when Monaco was united with France, but restored by treaty in 1861.

The principality has a population of around 32,000, many of them ultra-rich residents enjoying its tax-haven benefits.

Much of the image and financial success of the tiny state—the second-smallest in Europe after the Holy See—has been credited to Prince Rainier, who oversaw building projects, brought in the Formula One motor race, and fostered Monaco's reputation as an exclusive playground for the rich and famous.

With Prince Albert's bachelor status—and persistent rumors, denied, that he is gay—casting a question over the Grimaldi family's rule, Prince Rainier in 2002 changed Monaco's constitution to allow the offspring of his daughters, princesses Caroline, 48, and Stephanie, 40, to enter the line of succession. *AFP*

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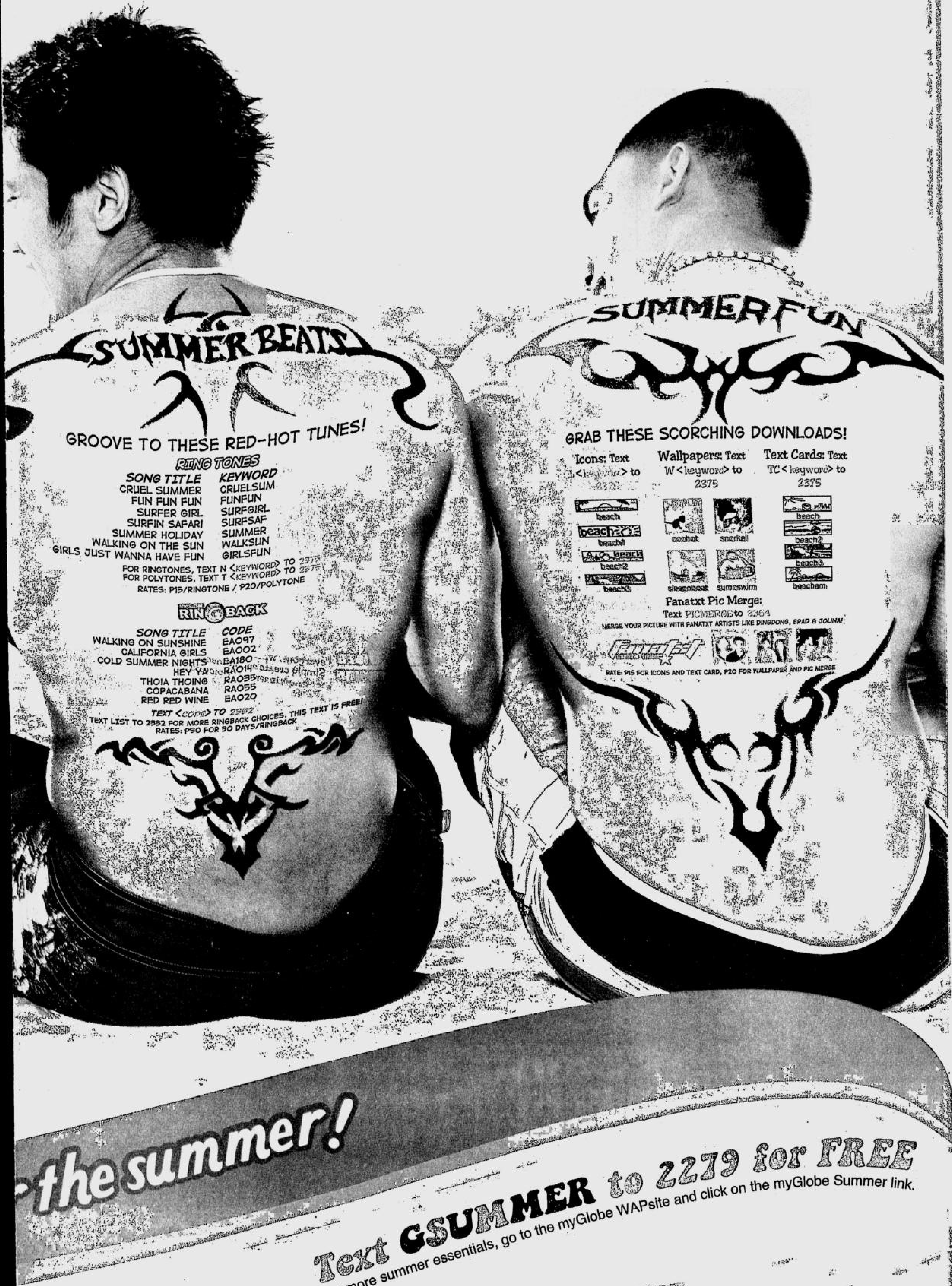

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Into the light

EDITORIAL

OF THE four Christian gospels, the resurrection story in John seems the closest to Filipino experience. Or to put it more precisely, the Filipino experience of rebirth, of new life, seems to find its closest parallel in John's resurrection narrative.

The fourth gospel, for instance, understands Jesus' rising from the dead in terms of darkness and light. It is the only gospel that situates the beginning of the resurrection story specifically at a time when "it was still dark." This, according to the great biblical scholar, the late Father Raymond E. Brown, probably means that Mary Magdalene went to visit the tomb the first time at about 7 or 8 in the evening on Saturday—that is to say, the start of the third day, by Jewish count.

"In this Gospel where light and darkness play such a role," Brown writes, "darkness lasts until someone believes in the risen Jesus."

This is a truth we can accept, because we are a people who see a ready meaning in the imagery of light and darkness. We do not measure our days the way the Jews did then, but we instinctively respond to John's dramatic sense of time. We know, from experience, that new life always emerges out of darkness. That in our view is simply the way the world turns.

The fourth gospel also dates the beginning of the good news about the resurrected Christ to Mary Magdalene's second visit to the tomb. "Magdalene is the first to proclaim **the risen Lord**," Brown writes (emphasis in the original). But the fact that it is a woman who first relays the news to the first Christians, by scrambling to the place where they were in hiding, and then by loudly giving witness, does not surprise us.

Despite the swaggering machismo that marks our culture, we are very much a society run by women. To cite only one proof, if proof were needed: Across the country, the ancient and distinctly Filipino ritual of intercession is repeated many times every single day: when the children or other relatives or close neighbors need anything from a particular family, it is the female figure in that family—the mother or sister or aunt—whom they approach. It is the same female figure who then relays the request to the rest of the family.

Mary Magdalene's enabling role in the Christian story, therefore, is another truth we can readily accept. Women, in our experience, knit the social fabric that keeps us together, and repair it when it is unraveled. As a result, the quintessential Filipino story of rebirth, of starting over, always involves the presence of a female enabler.

The fourth gospel's recollection of the resurrection events also shows us an extraordinary, but not unfamiliar, portrait of obedience. John, "the beloved disciple," outraces Peter to the now unsealed tomb, but despite the anticipation and anxiety he must have felt, he decides to wait for Peter—it was only right, he must have thought, that the natural leader of the apostles enter the tomb first. This is testimony, not so much to a disciple's deference to authority, but to the living relationship between leader and follower.

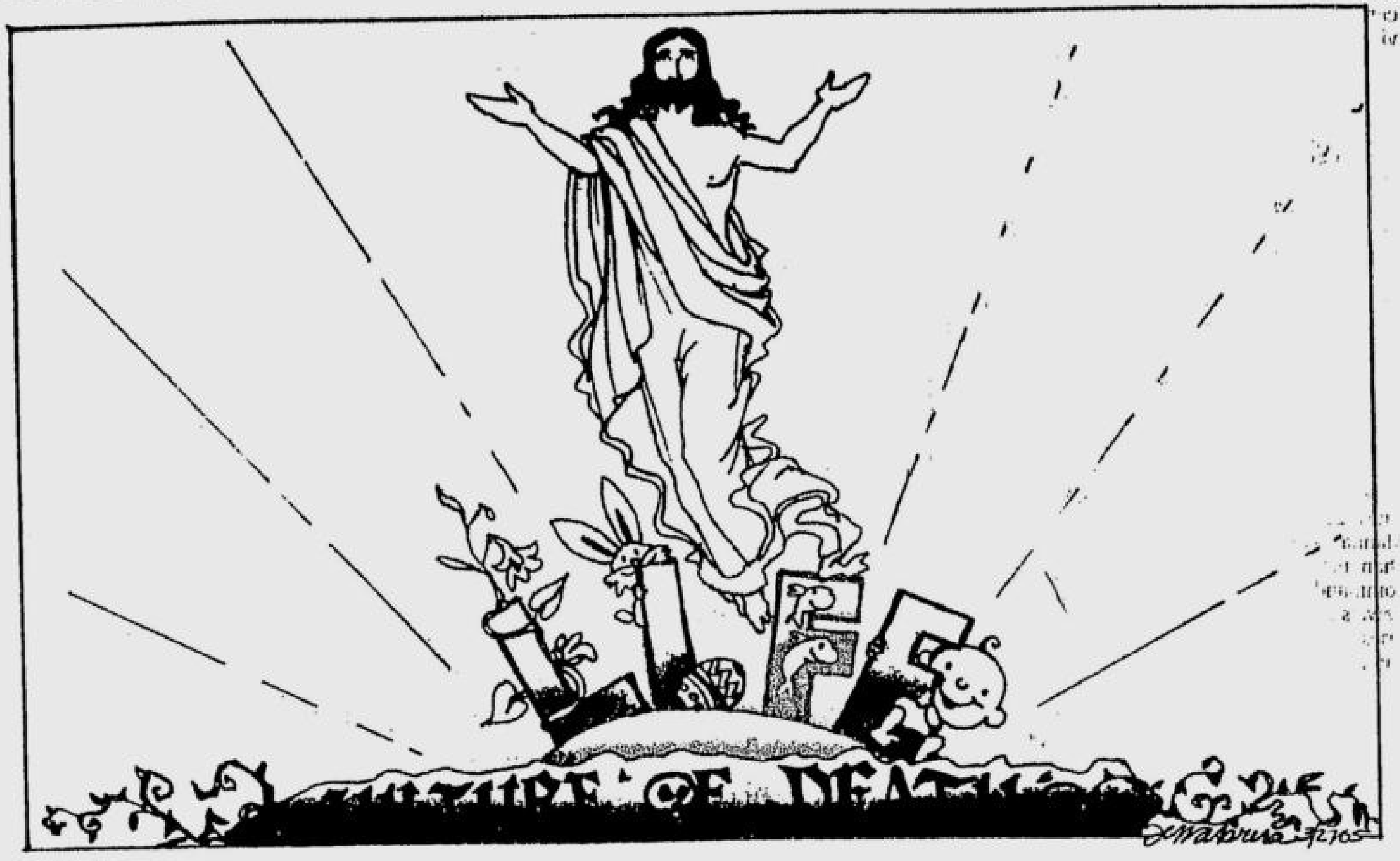
Again, this is a truth we can easily accept, because in our experience we make room for those who are "above" us. No new start, no fresh beginning, is complete without hearing from those who have gone before us.

The fourth gospel's resurrection story also gives a central role to Doubting Thomas, one of the 11 remaining apostles. This, we all believe, is only as it should be.

Doubt about the fulfillment of the good news Jesus proclaimed is common to all the gospels, but John is the only evangelist who sought to embody it in a particular person. It is a person, however, whom Filipinos can relate to: the "**segurista**," someone for whom proof comes before commitment.

It is vital to note, however, that in the end even doubt turned out to have its uses. "The final irony of the Gospel," Brown writes, "is that the disciple who doubted the most gives expression to the highest evaluation of Jesus uttered in any gospel: 'My Lord and my God.'"

Even the proof-seekers can take a leap of faith.



The proposed divorce law

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

A CATHOLIC bishop said recently that the divorce bill if enacted into law may be declared unconstitutional. Malacañang itself has warned that it is against the bill and is poised to veto it.

President Macapagal-Arroyo appears to be influenced by the religious vote and not by the Constitution.

Bishop Oscar Cruz is concededly knowledgeable on Canon Law, which must have been the basis for his dismissive view on the controversial measure. I am sure that law prohibits divorce on the strength of that well known admonition that what "God has joined together, let no man put asunder."

I have not read Canon Law, but I have read the Constitution. I read it again as I was writing this article and I am absolutely certain that it does not contain a similar prohibition against divorce.

What it declares as a State policy in Article II is that it "recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution." There is even a separate Article XV on The Family that says in its Sec. 2 that "marriage, as an inviolable social institution is the foundation of the family and shall be protected by the State."

But I have gone over the entire document, which I have been teaching law students since its adoption in 1987, and have found no provision absolutely or even conditionally prohibiting divorce in this country.

The bishop says that the bill will violate the obligation of the State to protect the family as an inviolable social institution. He does not say, though, that all families—without exception and regardless of their condition or quality—are entitled to that protection. Neither does the Constitution.

In our scheme of government, the legislature is given wide discretion to determine how the broad policies of the Constitution shall be implemented. Congress has the authority and the duty to provide for the details intended to make such policies effective. Allowing divorce where the marriage no longer deserves the protection of the State is, in my view, part of that function.

A battered wife should not be allowed to suffer the cruelties of her husband for the rest of her life. A cuckolded husband should not be condemned to bear the humiliation and mental torture caused by an unfaithful wife. A marriage blemished by ugly quarrels in front of the children is better ended than endured.

Where the husband neglects his primary duty to support the family or the wife spends her time playing mahjongg instead of taking care of the house, the home is debased and the marriage vows are disdained. Marriages should not be preserved where they are no longer an "inviolable social institution."

Bishop Cruz says there are sufficient remedies against such failed marriages without dissolving them. He speaks of legal separation, where the spouses are separated from bed and board but their marriage is retained and the spouses are not free to marry again. He also mentions annulment of marriage under the Family Code, but here the marriage is actually and legally invalidated, and the erstwhile spouses are free to marry again. Just like divorce.

It is somewhat amusing that Bishop Cruz is the head of the Marriage Tribunal that hears and grants petitions for the annulment of marriages performed by the Catholic Church. Many of the couples whose marriages have been annulled by the Church are now publicly married to other partners although their previous marriages are still legally valid and subsisting. Among these are popular entertainers who under the Revised Penal Code are bigamists.

The government dares not prosecute them for fear of alienating the Catholics, who constitute some 85 percent of our population. In addition to being condoned by the Catholic Church, these sinners provide a bad and even publicized example to their fans who believe that everything their idols do is worth emulating.

These privileged individuals would not be subject to moral and legal censure if they had been divorced under the proposed law and became free to marry again. This remedy would be more convenient than the marriage annulment allowed under present law, which is a divorce under an innocent name, and the canonical annulment of marriage by the Marriage Tribunal, which seems to be generally available only to the moneyed class.

I find it incomprehensible for Bishop Cruz to oppose the divorce bill because it will dissolve the marriage ties while he has no objection to being the head of the Marriage Tribunal for, precisely, the annulment of Catholic marriages. That kind of annulment is not even conformable to law, which he is invoking to challenge the annulment of marriage by divorce.

The Catholics believe that marriage is a permanent relationship that cannot under any circumstance be dissolved. Yet it has a Marriage Tribunal that annuls marriages and permits erstwhile spouses to contract other marriages.

What makes a marriage inviolable is the love of the spouses for each other, not the compulsions of law or even the Constitution. If that sentiment is betrayed—by violence, fickleness, irresponsibility or other serious cause—then the marriage can and must be legally dissolved by divorce.

Power, now

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a father who brought his son to church to attend Mass. The little boy had many questions about the rituals and the movements of the priest, and the father patiently explained everything to him. During the homily which kept on and on, the little boy saw the priest look at his watch and asked his father what that meant. His exasperated reply was "It means nothing at all, son, nothing at all," even as the priest rambled on and on.

* * *

The Holy Week has come and gone and, sad to say, for some it meant nothing at all. In Today's Gospel (Jn. 20, 1-9), the disciples saw an empty tomb, and their whole lives took on a new meaning from then on. The Resurrection was the pivotal event that changed their lives forever. The resurrection gave them power and strength, and transformed them from timid and fearful cowards to dedicated and committed disciples. Does the Resurrection mean anything at all in your life? Does the Resurrection move you and empower you?

* * *

Death is defined as "turning off the light because the dawn has come." (L. Jaworski) Sir Walter Scott calls it "not the last sleep, but the final awakening." For us Christians, death is not the graduation but a commencement. Just the thought that death is not a closure but an opening is a tremendous source of hope. In effect, what a Christian is saying is: Because of the Resurrection, I can forego the junk food now; after all, there is a healthy meal that awaits me at home. I can sacrifice the NOW because I know there is a LATER.

* * *

"They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put Him." This best describes what happens to many of us: after we spent some holy moments with the Lord during the Holy Week, we don't know where to put Him when we go back to our ordinary weeks. In the Holy Week, we put Him in the center of our hearts, but after that He is nowhere in our sight.

* * *

Easter gives us hope. Easter should also make us agents of hope and joy. We often forget this mission to witness to the Risen Lord because we are so entombed in our own problems and concerns. A joyful person empowered by the Risen Lord is one who says: "Hey, look! I have big problems, but my God is bigger than my problems! I have sins and failures, but my God is a God who loves me and forgives!" More than ever, we need joyful people who continue to point to the Risen Lord.

* * *

On a personal note, the Resurrection gives meaning to what I do in life. I chose the life of a priest to serve God's people. Part of the choice is giving up things and people I could have and hold in this world. Part of the choice, too, is going beyond my personal needs and agenda to respond to people's needs and to do God's agenda; and all these I do joyfully, humbly and gratefully, because the Resurrection is not some event that happened 2,000 years ago, but a power, a force in my life now.

* * *

We all prayed for Manny Pacquiao, we all cheered for him, and we all felt his pain with his ordeal in the ring and his subsequent defeat. But there was one person who felt it all more than anyone of us, and that was his mother Dionisia, who collapsed upon seeing her son all bloody and hurt. There was also one person who felt every single pain that her Son went through, and that was Mama Mary who absorbed it all in her heart. If there was anyone who loved Jesus, it was His mother, and I still don't understand why people who claim to love Christ disdain and even hate His mother. She was there from His birth till death. How can people just remove her from the picture, all in the name of Christ?

* * *

Rainier Carlos is a 5-year-old boy who needs a liver transplant after being diagnosed with biliary artesia. His mother is looking for good samaritans who may want to help save the life of this little boy. For more details, please call (02)933-8495 or 09183929927. Let us all help this little boy. May the power of the Resurrection move you to pray for him and help him live.

* * *

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* * *

Let me end with this story I got from Vanessa. She is right now going through a healing from a broken relationship. What gives her hope is the story about a little girl who would not part with her fake pearl. No amount of persuasion could make her give it up. But the father kept on asking her, until finally, one night, in tears, she handed the fake pearl to her father. Whereupon, her father placed in her hand a precious, genuine pearl.

For Vanessa, she gave up someone she treasures so much because the Father asked of it, and that, she says, has made all the difference in her life. If the Father asks of it, give it and you'll never forget it. Alleluia! New life! Happy Easter!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to experience your power in the life I am living now. Amen.

Changing of the guard

A FEW years back, I mentioned some similarities between the Armed Forces and the Church as institutions. Foremost of this is the absence of democratic space in the administration of the two organizations, particularly as it concerns the lives of its members. When an individual opts for the uniform or the cassock, he gives up his personal freedoms, his rights, his privileges and prerogatives and takes a vow of complete, unquestioning obedience to authority. Any disagreements have to be resolved within an established framework respecting, at all times, a chain of command which is generally intolerant of outside interference. The penalty for any form of disobedience could be dismissal or excommunication.

The two institutions are also meritocracies. Promotions and career advancements are usually based on performance or competence rather than the intervention of outside forces. There are exceptions, however, particularly in the military at its highest levels where political clout starts to exert pressure on the leadership. But by and large, one moves up the ladder depending on one's personal merits.

Somehow, I am reminded of these features because our parish, the Mt. Carmel Shrine in New Manila, Quezon City, recently experienced a changing of the guard with shades of the change of command ceremonies that mark leadership renewals in the Armed Forces. The outgoing parish priest, Fr. Mariano "Jun-Jun" Agruda III was elevated to the post of provincial of the Carmelite Order in the Philippines, a position which takes in under its jurisdiction Vietnam and parts of Indonesia. He was replaced by Fr. Paulo Gamboa of Cebu, his quiet, soft-spoken assistant who will be handling his first mission since ordination. The other member of the triumvirate that ruled the parish in the past was Fr. Arnie Boehme, a tall, smiling Yankee from Minnesota, who came to the Philippines in the '60s and stayed on to serve our people. He is now the prior of the Monastery of John of the Cross. The former provincial, Fr. Joel Borreo, takes over as prior of the Mt. Carmel Shrine.

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

At 41, Agruda becomes the youngest ever Carmelite provincial. He was also Carmel's youngest parish priest and over the years, Fr. JunJun (as he is better known) built up a devoted following not only among the local parishioners but also in various parts of the country. For a while, I had the impression that he was headed for advanced studies in the Vatican or Chicago after so many years in the trenches. But apparently the Carmelites are, at the moment, short of manpower and need all hands. It is a well-deserved promotion for Fr. JunJun, who was chosen at a council meeting of senior Carmelites at the Capuchin Retreat House in Lipa City. Only those "in solemn vow," meaning, those who had made a lifetime commitment, participated in the elections. I guess the council meeting would be the equivalent of the board of generals deliberating on major assignment and promotion matters in the AFP.

In his response to the council upon his election, Fr. JunJun recounted how the wise King Solomon, who had succeeded his father, David, called on the Lord for help crying out that he was only a little child and did not know what to do. He asked the Lord to "Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" And the Lord replied, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life, no other king shall compare with you."

Indeed, when we speak of wisdom, the name of King Solomon always comes to mind. We remember the judgment he made in the story of two women who were claiming the same child. In the end, after hearing their arguments, King Solomon called for a sword saying, "Divide the living boy in two; then give half to one and half to the other." One of the women cried out, "Please my Lord, give her the living boy, certainly do not kill him!" While the other said, "It shall be neither mine nor yours; divide it." The King then responded, "Give the first woman the living boy; do not kill him. She is his mother." All the people heard of the judgment and stood in awe of the King.

* * *

Fr. JunJun's stint as parish priest covered a period of six years, two terms of three years each. (That's much longer than any general in the AFP or Philippine National Police gets to serve these days. Perhaps the Church realizes something that our leaders don't seem to understand or appreciate.)

Agruda summarizes his work at Mt. Carmel in two words: Building bridges. And I am reminded of an old Muslim saying, "The people learned from the angels of God how to build bridges and therefore, after fountains, the greatest blessing is to build a bridge and the greatest sin is to interfere with it." Building bridges is a work in progress that must be pursued if we are to have a better world—bridges of compassion and justice that will symbolize caring for and sharing with our less fortunate brothers. The gap between the rich and the poor, between the haves and the have-nots, the ignorant and the knowledgeable, has to be narrowed if we are to slow down and reverse the deteriorating quality of life in our nation.

* * *

A Happy Easter to all!

A day in New York

NEW YORK—What to do on a free day in Manhattan? What about trying to fill the day with sights, delights and delightful friends in the world's most exciting city?

Rising late one morning, my husband and I decided to walk about eight blocks uptown to East 60th Street, in the chilly late-winter air, to Serendipity 3, a café familiar to fans of New York movies. Actually, dining in Serendipity is a fantasy my daughter and I have nursed since we watched the movie of the same title (the main characters meet in the café), but for the moment, the hubby had to be the one to share this dream with me.

We nearly backed out of it, though, when we got to the place and found the narrow entryway crowded with waiting customers. Still, driven in by the cold, we found that getting a table for two wasn't all that hard, even in such a popular place. Described by a guidebook as imbued with "a slightly-musty Swinging Sixties flavor," Serendipity is low-ceilinged (it has a second floor) and rather dim—the abundance of Tiffany lamps and kitschy décor not helping to lighten things up any.

To our surprise, we found most of the tables had children and babies, with their mothers and their women friends, which was only expected since the café is in the vicinity of Bloomingdale's. At an adjacent table, a pretty toddler of about 2 kept raising her glass of soda, exclaiming "Cheers!" "I wonder how she learned to say that!" said a lady on the next table.

In the next few days, each time we shared that we had been at Serendipity, we would be asked: "So, did you have the Frozen Hot Chocolate?" The only reply to that was "Of course!" The concoction, a bowl of semi-frozen sweet dark chocolate topped with a swirl of whipped cream and chocolate bits, is Serendipity's signature dessert.

We left the café so "feeling New York," knowing we had partaken of a Manhattan ritual, a quintessential New York experience.

* * *

ANOTHER Manhattan landmark, though it's rarely mentioned in the guidebooks, is The Strand Bookstore, on the upper reaches of Broadway. It may not be a tourist destination,

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

but The Strand is a Mecca for the serious book lover. Every time a bibliophile friend would return from New York, he or she would be brimming with news and braggadocio about the latest cheap finds from The Strand, leaving me with a serious case of book envy.

I was finally able to visit The Strand about five years ago, accompanied by my friend, writer Eric Gamalinda, who took the occasion to lead me on a guided walking tour of Greenwich Village as well. On this trip, it was another writer friend, Edmund Silvestre of The Filipino Reporter, who took me and the hubby there after we met up at Penn Central.

Nothing could deter me from prowling the aisles of bargain books and picking up choice finds from the bins. Not the frowns of the hubby, who knew he would have to lug the books up and down the streets of Manhattan. Not the astonished expression on Edmund's face as I bumped into him with a small tower of books balanced on my basket. The fruits of my expedition? Two small bags of books, from a "Jane Austen" mystery to rare books on lexicography (look up the meaning!). A good start to the day, I must say.

* * *

MEETING us after our foray to The Strand was Consul General Cecille Rebong, who was treating us to lunch at The Water Club, a floating restaurant over the East River that bespoke elegance and attentive service.

With the exception of the "ConGen," we all opted for the lobster lunch, which consisted of an entire shelled lobster and crab cake preceded by a wonderful light lobster bisque.

It was certainly a treat worth remembering: dining amid posh surroundings overlooking the East River, and engaging in animated conversation about local politics, of the East Coast and Manila variety, women's issues, and Fil-Am personalities. As the wide range of topics attested, ConGen Rebong is certainly one hard-working diplomat!

From The Water Club, Consul Rebong had us dropped off at the doorway of the Museum of Modern Art. Wanting to save on the $20 per person entrance fee, we had timed our visit to the MoMA—a must-see for the hubby on every visit to Manhattan—on a Friday afternoon, when the public can enter for free. But to our dismay, even if we had more than an hour to spare, the lobby was already filling up with people on the entrance queue. We crossed the street and ducked into the Museum of Art and Design to kill time. To our shock, we found a long line of visitors that stretched down the block and into an empty lot behind MoMA. Waiting time at the end of the line, a sign said, was one hour and 45 minutes. With a sinking heart, we decided to cut our losses and head for Broadway, wondering if the day would ever come when museums in the Philippines would ever gather such an eager crowd.

* * *

SO it was that we headed cross town on foot to Broadway, as we had tickets to "Little Women" at the Virginia Theatre that evening.

Edmund had told us to watch out, not for the better-known Maureen McGovern who plays Marmee, but for Sutton Forster, one of Broadway's hottest stars, who headlines the musical as Jo.

The story may be familiar, and the tunes not exactly memorable, but "Little Women" is charming enough. The cast is imbued with energy, especially the mesmerizing Forster. How I wished I had my daughter with me to share in the ultimate bonding experience!

Here's hoping "Little Women" survives the onslaught of new potential blockbusters (we missed "Spamalot" by just a few days!) and gives me another reason to return to Manhattan...soon.

The will to change

ON HIS way to Calvary, Jesus foretold many events that astonished his followers. He said he would be arrested, that one of his own disciples would betray him, and that Peter himself would deny that he knew him, not once but thrice. He said he would be crucified, and he would die on the cross. He would be buried, but he would rise from the dead. Jesus held these things to be true, and he acted upon them so that God might forgive the sins of men, and thus change the circumstances of their existence. This is the poetry of forgiveness around which the Christian faith revolves. It is a philosophy of action and hope, and Jesus was its strongest poet.

Many of us hold certain beliefs, but all too often we fail to act upon them. As such, they serve us no purpose. They have no meaning, no effect on the way we live our lives. They are books that remain unread, music that is unheard, faith that is unrealized. We remain trapped in old untested beliefs, from which we cannot free ourselves because of fear. We do not develop the courage to experiment, to test our beliefs, to connect them to the practical details of our lives. Consequently, there is a huge gap between the beliefs we profess and the beliefs we actually hold by default, our habits of action. And, indeed, there is an even bigger gap between our habits of action as a people and our social goals.

A friend of mine was complaining recently about corruption in a city government office. He said he needed to secure a hundred and one permits just to remodel an old house. Every precious signature depended on compliance with a set of requirements that kept growing as he produced the necessary documentation. After some months of following up papers, his contractor told him that the message being conveyed was loud and clear: a small amount, the usual S-O-P or "standard operating procedure," would hasten the release of the needed permits.

I advised my friend to go and report the matter to the National Bureau of Investigation so an en-

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

trapment operation could be set. He was ready to do so, but he never got around to it. His contractor decided to pay, offering to take the added expense out of his earnings. These people work as a syndicate, he said; you get one of them arrested, and the rest of the gang will make life difficult for you.

The contractor's fear is not unfounded. Everyone who has dealt with such offices assumes a general order of things to which you can only adjust. When you are busy earning a living, you cannot afford to take risks fighting the system. Yet elsewhere in the metropolis, my daughter, who is building a house in Cainta, was pleasantly surprised to be able to get all the building permits she needed in one day without having to pay anybody or secure special favors from anyone. There are such pockets of institutional integrity in our society, and they are steadily multiplying, quietly supplanting the old discredited ways of doing things with straightforward public service.

It is less difficult to reform systems from within than to expect heroic individuals to expose the evils of systems from outside. Corruption thrives on the proliferation of unnecessary and unreasonable requirements. It is the stepchild of inefficiency. A responsible leader in an office usually knows who is on the take. If he is not himself part of the racket, and feels strongly about it, he will find ways of eliminating the opportunity and getting rid of the rotten personnel. To do this, he needs a critical mass of reformers to help him, for the corrupt will do everything to tie his hands, to sabotage his efforts, and to undermine his authority and integrity by capitalizing on his own minor lapses.

It is never easy to initiate change. The will to change has to be anchored on a will to believe that things can be different. Such a belief often cannot be grounded simply on the evidence at hand. Yet if one believes and, on this basis, he acts upon the world, his action may change the situation in ways he himself has not anticipated. In the results, he may find the affirmation of his belief or feeling unjustified in his faith, he may become cynical. Such are what John Dewey called "the risks of faith." The point is that we will never know if our beliefs matter until we act on them, or unless we live them.

In his thought-provoking essay, "Christianity and Democracy," Dewey said: "The one claim that Christianity makes is that God is truth; that as truth He is love and reveals Himself fully to man, keeping back nothing of Himself; that man is so one with the truth thus revealed that it is not so much revealed to him as in him; he is its incarnation." Dewey is not a theologian but a philosopher. But his understanding of the nature of man in Christianity allows one to appreciate better the portrayal of Jesus in the gospels.

Jesus was being prosecuted for supposedly claiming he was the son of God. Yet in fact he always referred to himself as the son of man. He called God his Father only because he believed that all human beings were God's children. His disciples were stunned by the revelations he made, and how they all turned out to be true. But the bigger truth he was teaching them by his own life was the truth that is already in them, waiting to be lived.

People sometimes wonder how a predominantly Christian culture like ours could be the fount of corruption. There is a simple explanation for that: faith, for most of us, is separate from everyday life. We do not draw from it ideals or the will to change.

Happy Easter!

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Work opportunities

IT'S graduation week for many schools in the country. Parents whose children are completing their education in various school levels will be busy preparing for the occasion.

The joy of parents seeing their sons or daughters go up the stage to receive their college diplomas is beyond description, more so if they had to scrounge for money for their children to get that coveted sheepskin.

From the graduation site, the families of the graduates usually troop to restaurants to celebrate that rite of passage of their loved ones. Those who cannot afford the luxury content themselves with simple treats in their homes or fast-food centers. But wherever the venue, what is important is, the event is celebrated in a special way and with photos and mementoes.

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

For the lucky ones, a vacation in the province or abroad often comes as part of the graduation reward package. The less fortunate make use of the post-graduation break as an opportunity to relax, bum around with friends or do the things they were unable to do earlier due to school constraints.

After the euphoria shall have died down, the graduate will have to decide whether to seek higher education to learn more skills so he can compete better in the work market, or look for a livelihood that will allow him to meet his financial requirements.

This year's two million or so college graduates will enter the work force under not-so-encouraging conditions. According to the latest survey, in January this year, the number of jobless Filipinos rose to 11.3 percent, or the equivalent of 4.03 million.

Employment

Some 73,000 jobs in the country's traditional sources of employment have been lost. For the first time in many years, the service sector, which usually provides employment to the employable sector of the population, did not generate new work opportunities.

The call center business seems to be the only bright spot in the otherwise anemic job market. As in the past, whenever the local economy cannot absorb the corps of willing and able Filipino workers, foreign employment becomes an attractive alternative.

Studies have shown that upon completion of a college degree, the average Filipino graduate usually looks forward to working for a company with fixed working hours and a monthly salary; the more established or well-known the company is, the better.

The fresh graduate gets a big kick over the idea of working in an air-conditioned office, in neat clothes or elegant uniform. He derives a lot of pleasure in the thought that, if he keeps his nose clean, he will receive his paycheck twice a month and can look forward to someday assuming a top position in the company.

This kind of attitude is not surprising because our educational system is geared toward preparing students to work for somebody who will pay him based on the number of hours he spends working, or the amount of business he brings to the company.

Unless the student is enrolled in a course on entrepreneurship, the idea of working for one's self or engaging in business is seldom given impetus in our colleges and universities. The list of subjects in the curriculum reads like a checklist of the things a student must be proficient in, to be good and productive employees.

Opportunities

It is no accident that the countries whose culture and educational system emphasize entrepreneurship (and the accompanying virtues of initiative and hard work) among their young are economically well-developed.

The roots of most of Asia's successful business ventures—the Philippines included—can be traced to people of Chinese ancestry who opted to take on the risks of engaging in business rather than enjoy the security of a regular paycheck

Whether it has something to do with Confucian ethic or the perceived natural interest of the Chinese in anything that can bring in money, the fact remains that the Chinese in our midst have a reputation for business acumen. Going to business seems to be second nature to them.

An international business journal I read recently reported that in Taiwan, entrepreneurs are looked up to more than employees of private companies. It doesn't matter if the business consists only of one stall operating in a sidewalk. What counts is its owner is in business for himself and does not depend on another for his daily sustenance. The entrepreneurs take enormous pride in their trade and do not feel inferior to those who earn more from being employees.

During school reunions, the alumni who declare themselves as independent business people get more applause than their counterparts who took the employment road. On an aggregate basis, the revenues generated by small and middle scale industries in Taiwan are not far behind those of the conglomerates that dominate the local stock market.

With that high level of productivity, it's no wonder that Taiwan has one of the highest, if not the highest, foreign reserves in the world.

Business

Our latest college graduates may be in for a long wait if they rely on employment in private companies for their livelihood. Right now, the supply of manpower far exceeds the demands of employers. The job fairs continue to attract thousands of young men and women who are eager to apply the skills they learned in school, but unfortunately there are few takers.

It's true, things appear to be looking up in the economy with the peso strengthening against the dollar and the stock market on the upswing. If the promise of some foreign companies to expand their business in the country pushes through, more job opportunities will be made available to the existing work force.

But the potential job openings, including those announced by local companies that are expanding their operations, will not come to fruition overnight. It will take months, if not years, before the facilities to be manned by the new workers can become operational.

No graduate in his right mind will sit tight and wait for that event to happen. He has to explore other ways to make himself productive outside of being in the employ of another. If he does not, he will either die of boredom or become a parasite in his own household with adverse consequences to his self-esteem.

There are a thousand and one business prospects in the country waiting to be tapped. They are available to graduates who think entrepreneurship is a meaningful alternative to employment.

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Can Ligtas Buntis save lives? (2)

THE CATHOLIC Church has enlisted the support of lay leaders in its campaign against the Ligtas Buntis program of the Department of Health. At a news conference on March 14 in Quezon City, Human Life International-Asia, a pro-life movement, presented four papers that claim that the Philippines in particular and the planet in general are not suffering from overpopulation.

One of the speakers, Brian Clowes, said the United States had been aggressively promoting population control in developing countries to "regulate (or have better access to) the natural resources of these countries." He said the US strategy on population control was laid out in the "Kissinger Report," also known as the National Security Study Memorandum 200.

Another speaker, economist Bernardo Villegas claimed that fears of overpopulation were unfounded.

He said the Philippines should instead watch out for a "demographic winter," a bigger population of people aged at least 65 and a dwindling population of those belonging to the 0-14 age group.

Focusing on Ligtas Buntis, Ligaya Anacta-Acosta, a former information officer of the DOH, said the program was a massive population control program as it was promoting contraceptives and sterilization.

Contraceptives are abortifacients, contrary to the DOH claim that these are safe, according to Acosta.

The DOH acknowledges that the distribution of some 1.6 million contraceptive items (oral pills, IUDs and vials of injectable contraceptives) is part of Ligtas Buntis. But Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the contraceptives were available for those who wish to use them.

In his article in Talk of the Town on March 13, Dayrit said Ligtas Buntis was not premised on controlling population but on safeguarding the health of mothers and children.

It is a massive population control program

By Ligaya B. Anacta-Acosta

I was an avid promoter of contraceptives when I was with the Department of Health (DOH). Promoting contraceptives is a very big part of DOH programs. There was, and still is, a lot of money for family planning.

For a long time, we have been told that contraceptives prevent conception. However, during the training I had undergone with Mercedes Arzu-Wilson, president of the Family of the Americas Foundation (FAF), it became clear to me that intrauterine devices (IUD) work essentially as an abortifacient. It does not prevent conception but causes constant inflammation and infection in the uterus. Thus, the newly conceived baby cannot implant in that kind of environment. No wonder then that the most common side effect suffered by IUD users is severe menstrual bleeding.

As our trainer said emphatically, "that was not ordinary blood, it was the baby being aborted in what is called micro-abortion." For pills and Depo-Provera, we learned that they make the endometrial lining and uterus dry and barren like a desert, thus, the newly conceived baby cannot implant as well.

Natural vs artificial

After my training in Manila, I conducted 10 batches of training for more than 300 midwives, nurses, doctors and parish pastoral workers. After watching the video titled "Natural vs Artificial" produced by the FAF, participants came one by one to testify (they were sobbing) that indeed all these things were happening to them and their clients.

I heard very dramatic testimonies of deaths (particularly due to pills and IUDs), ailments (most common of which were high blood pressure, ovarian cysts and cancers due to pills, and pelvic inflammatory diseases and infections brought about by IUDs), and couples and families being drawn apart by contraception and sterilization, which caused depression and reduction in libido. Some women using pills also reported mood disorders.

Health workers even shared, without my asking, the fact that tetanus toxoid immunization was indeed causing abortions. I was shocked. I remembered that during the height of the tetanus toxoid controversy, when former health secretary Juan Flavier first ran for senator, I was constantly on radio and TV defending it, since I was Flavier's campaign manager for Region 8 back then.

Losing babies

Today, I hear a lot of testimonies of women, who are between two to four months pregnant, losing their baby because they had been injected with that drug. Also, a lot of single women who had been injected with it can no longer achieve pregnancy.

I constantly gave this feedback to the health secretary and to my regional director in Region 8 but they didn't seem to care. It seemed that they were more concerned about our targets than the health of our people.

Through research, I discovered that the Philippines received an annual budget of $144 million in the mid-1990s for population control. The money was "used primarily in media, the House of Representatives and Senate affairs to help change people's views regarding contraception and family planning." Today, that amount has even increased.

I kept quiet for a long time. I knew too well that being an insider, and a spokesperson for the DOH, I would cause a scandal if I made an exposé. The last straw, however, was Ligtas Buntis.

Deceptively named

Ligtas Buntis is a masked population control program, targeting men and women 15 years old and above—regardless of marital status. I found it very unusual that we just had our orientation on Jan. 17 but the program was ready for implementation by Feb. 1.

I also felt nauseated with the fact that we were partnering with Marie Stopes, an agency the DOH did not even accredit in the past, because it knows too well that the group is into abortion in the guise of menstrual and fertility regulation. Very deceptively named, Ligtas Buntis is nothing but the provision of contraceptives and sterilization services house to house. It is apparent that the DOH now considers pregnancy a disease like *tigdas* and polio. When I objected, my director told me to "separate [my] morality and [my] work."

I never thought that at my age I would be saying goodbye to government service. However, I thought I have only one life to live, so if I could offer this one life to make a difference in this world, so be it.

The DOH tries so hard in telling people that contraceptives are safe and that it is not true that these are abortifacients. But I have a copy of their bible, "The Essentials of Contraceptive Technology: A Handbook for Clinic Staff" published by the Johns Hopkins Population Information Program (March 2003), and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

That book details the possible side effects of each and every contraceptive and sterilization service. And even if that book makes horrible side effects look normal in a very deceitful way, on pages 12 to 14 for IUD, it says, "possibly could prevent egg from implanting in the wall of uterus." Let us not be deceived. That is synonymous to abortion.

The DOH is even trying to redefine human life to start from implantation rather than from conception as very clearly stated in Article II, Section 12 of the Philippine Constitution.

As I told the health secretary when he called me last January (right after I was relieved as natural family planning program manager because of my change of heart regarding contraceptives), I now know exactly why, despite spending billions of dollars over a period of more than 35 years, we only have a 35 percent contraceptive prevalence rate. It is because our products are intrinsically defective. However hard we promote them, people don't buy them because of the horrible side effects they experience.

Men and women are forced to resort to sterilization because they are not aware that it too has a lot of ill effects. In fact, the Matching Grant Program implemented by the DOH through a grant from the USAID-funded Management Sciences for Health is massively promoting vasectomy.

DOH people vow that they are pro-life. In fact, one of the four principles of the DOH family planning program is "respect for life." But when you promote contraception, you can never call yourself pro-life. That's why it's called contraception. It is against conception or against the birth of human life.

Abortion mentality

The DOH also fondly argues that it is anti-abortion. But I have found in my research that it is common knowledge around the globe except at the DOH that many contraceptives are indeed abortifacients. I have also found that the Church statement that a contraceptive mentality leads to an abortion mentality is true.

Because women who take contraceptives don't like to have a child, when they get pregnant (since no contraception is 100-percent effective) it is very easy for them to go to the next step of having an abortion. The womb, which should be the safest place on earth, has become a tomb for countless number of children. As Mother Teresa of Calcutta put it, "if we accept that a mother can kill her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?"

Obviously, there is a need to revisit and overhaul government priorities, particularly its continuing effort to promote population control despite overwhelming evidence that there is no overpopulation.

Political pressure

The roots of the government's family planning program are deep, with a tangle of branches entwined in public programs. The intricate complex of power and money, fed by an annual flow of millions of dollars in grants, not only supports population programs but also finances lobbying to sustain the programs.

The claim that the poor lack access to family planning services is untenable. If the poor "lack access and want more birth control," why should government programs like Ligtas Buntis need to exert such tremendous pressure on them? Why go to the extent of conducting a house-to-house campaign? And why go to the extent of harassing health workers like me who choose not to support the program?

I'm not saying that couples should not plan their families. You must know, however, that there is a tremendous difference between family planning and population control. Family planning implies that the decision is made by the couple, taking into account their own belief and circumstances—financial or otherwise—regarding the number and spacing of their children. Population control measures, in contrast, are implemented by governments and international agencies after they have determined the number of children per couple.

Gift of love

Genuine family planning gives couples control over their reproductive behavior. Population control relinquishes this right to the government and international agencies. As Mother Teresa put it, "The way to plan the family is natural family planning not contraception. In destroying the power of giving life through contraception, a husband or wife is doing something to self.

"This turns the attention to self and so it destroys the gift of love in him or her. In loving, the husband and wife must turn the attention to each other as happens in natural family planning, and not to self as happens in contraception. Once that living love is destroyed, abortion easily follows."

Shifting public health policy from contraceptives to natural family planning will considerably bring down the expenses of our cash-strapped government and will rid us of graft and corruption brought about by the multimillion dollar grants. Natural family planning will truly promote health because there are no side effects. It can also be taught and learned by anyone. More importantly, it will bring back the needed sense of values and morality not only in government but also between and among couples and families.

(Acosta is a former information officer of the Department of Health and its regional program manager for natural family planning for Eastern Visayas.)

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Gambling financier says 2 top Davao cops are on her payroll

MATI, Davao Oriental—A confessed financier of illegal numbers game here said two ranking police officials were making money out of her illegal activities.

Edna Pullan, who also runs a legitimate business here, said she decided to come out in the open against provincial police director Senior Supt. Bienvenido Latag and Mati police chief Chief Insp. Jose Catimbang because she could no longer endure their "extortion activities."

She said that Latag and Catimbang used to ask at least P1,000 from her and other financiers of Last Two as protection money but the two police officials allegedly demanded that the amount be increased.

"The amount of the monthly payola has increased to P5,000. Personally, that's too heavy already. I could no longer bear it. Our operation is slow these days because of the economic hardship. The number of our bettors has decreased significantly because of the economic crunch," she said.

"The police should have taken that into account. We are losing but they jacked up the amount of payola. How could we pay them?," Pullan told reporters here on Saturday.

The INQUIRER sought Latag's comment but the police official declined to say anything.

Catimbang denied the allegation against him and even quoted Latag as saying that Pullan's allegations should not be dignified.

He said Pullan had "fabricated" the allegations to put the police in a bad light.

"Her daughter and their relatives were arrested by the police for illegal gambling," Catimbang said.

Catimbang said he and Latag were unfazed by the allegations because they did nothing wrong.

"As we have intensified our crackdown on illegal gambling operators, we should expect that these gambling lords will get back at us by fabricating stories to discredit the police," he said.

But Pullan said she was not making up stories.

"I am making this exposé because the police are now arresting Last Two financiers who refuse to pay the hefty payola," she said.

Pullan said her refusal also triggered a raid that saw the arrest of her daughter, Jaline, and sister-in-law, Vicky.

"The police are shameless. How could they do that to us after making us milking cows for long years?" she said.

Pullan also named a Major Garcia as the one who collects payola for Latag while a policeman, named Bebot Castillo, allegedly collects the payola for Catimbang.

Catimbang said they checked with the police roster but the names of the persons that Pullan mentioned were not listed. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Isabela exec hurt, daughter killed in Good Friday ambush

GAMU, Isabela—A councilor here was wounded while his daughter was killed after they were shot along the Gamu-Roxas road in Barangay District 3 here on Good Friday, police said.

Senior Supt. Napoleon Estilles, Isabela police director, said Kimberly Morillo, a second year high school student, was with her father, Councilor Manuel Morillo, 48, aboard a motorcycle when two men aboard another motorcycle shot them using a .45 cal. pistol at about 7:30 a.m.

Kimberly was hit in the abdomen while her father suffered from a bullet wound in the nape.

Kimberly died while being taken to the Isabela Doctors General Hospital in Ilagan town.

Police said the suspects, whose faces were concealed by helmets, fled to Roxas town, 30 km from here. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

WAITING FOR A RIDE DELFIN T. MALLARI JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
A girl falls asleep on her family's luggage as she and her parents await a bus ride to Marinduque at a terminal in Lucena City to take a vacation there for the Holy Week.

DAR asked to spare land for coconuts from CARP

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) has asked Agrarian Reform Secretary Rene Villa to spare from land reform coverage the 10-hectare Coconut Germplasm Testing Station (CGTS) of the PCA in Hacienda Nuestra Señora del Carmen in Pontevedra, Capiz.

Jeffrey de los Reyes, PCA provincial officer of Capiz, said the PCA-CGTS was on a private land owned by the late Carmen Dinglasan Consing, who agreed to let PCA use the land for 20 years since 1986.

In January 2003, however, the Department of Agrarian Reform informed the PCA that the property has been placed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

De los Reyes said Loreto Dinglasan Melecio, the property's administrator, has already signified her willingness to extend the agreement for the use of the land for another 10 years.

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Gov says it's 'Oriental Negros'

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Gov. George Arnaiz has called on the media to support the move of the provincial government to use the name "Oriental Negros" when referring to the province, in order to boost the province's campaign to attract tourists.

The governor, who also chairs the Regional Development Council of Central Visayas, said there would be no need for a law mandating the use of Oriental Negros in referring to the province as he believed it could be used interchangeably with its original name, Negros Oriental, without a legislation from Congress.

The call was made during the inauguration of the Mahardika Travel and Tours at the Ever Mall here on Wednesday, the latest travel agency to open in Dumaguete.

Mahardika Travel and Tours is a business venture of six investors who include a local couple, Reno and Sheila May Ghent, and Mayor Norbi Edding of Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte.

Arnaiz said the provincial government is spending its own money to promote its tourist attractions, even before the Department of Tourism decided not to include the province in the list of tourism spots in the country to be promoted by the national government.

The failure of the DOT to promote Oriental Negros resulted in a serious backlash in the DOT program in the province, after Dumaguete City Mayor Agustin Perdices ordered the removal of the 500 streamers displayed by the DOT and Smart Communications, which bankrolled the campaign, all over the city.

Perdices said the streamers were displayed without a permit.

Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, in a bid to mollify the provincial leaders, assured that Dumaguete and Oriental Negros will be included in the second theme of the tourism advertisements in June, which will highlight food.

But Percides scoffed at the province's inclusion in the food theme, saying Dumaguete and the rest of the province is not known for their food but rather for their tourism sites and old-world culture.

"We are thankful that there are travel agencies sprouting in Dumaguete because they can help advertise Dumaguete and the province," Arnaiz said.

Edding said he decided to invest in Dumaguete and Oriental Negros because he was encouraged by the peaceful state of the place. "Even the governor can walk around without a bodyguard," he noted.

For Reno Ghent, opening a travel agency was the next best thing, after having spent some time as a travel organizer for inbound visitors. "I believe this is the only province where we have multiple destinations—lakes dive sites, dolphin watching, waterfalls—we have everything."

He said that the reason travel agencies are sprouting in Dumaguete was because it is geographically positioned to reach tourist destinations in Central Visayas.

2 marine cadets sacked for hazing death

IBA, Zambales—Two cadets of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA), who were tagged as suspects in the death of a freshman cadet, were expelled by PMMA officials on Wednesday.

In an order on March 23, Rear Adm. Fidel Diñoso, PMMA president, signed the dishonorable dismissal of Third Class Midshipmen Jake Chumacog and Roger Mestito, who beat up Fourth Class Midshipman Jan Hector Alcantara on March 11.

Police reports said Alcantara, 18, suffered from a fracture in the spine resulting from the three fatal blows delivered by Chumacog.

A report from a PMMA panel that investigated the incident said Chumacog and Mestito committed a "Class 1" offense under the Anti-Hazing Law. Penalty for that offense is outright dismissal, the report said.

"This (termination) is the highest sanction the [PMMA] administration can impose on the erring cadets since it is not allowed by law to file any case in court on behalf of the victim," Diñoso said.

"Our foremost policy is not to tolerate any form of hazing inside our school," he said.

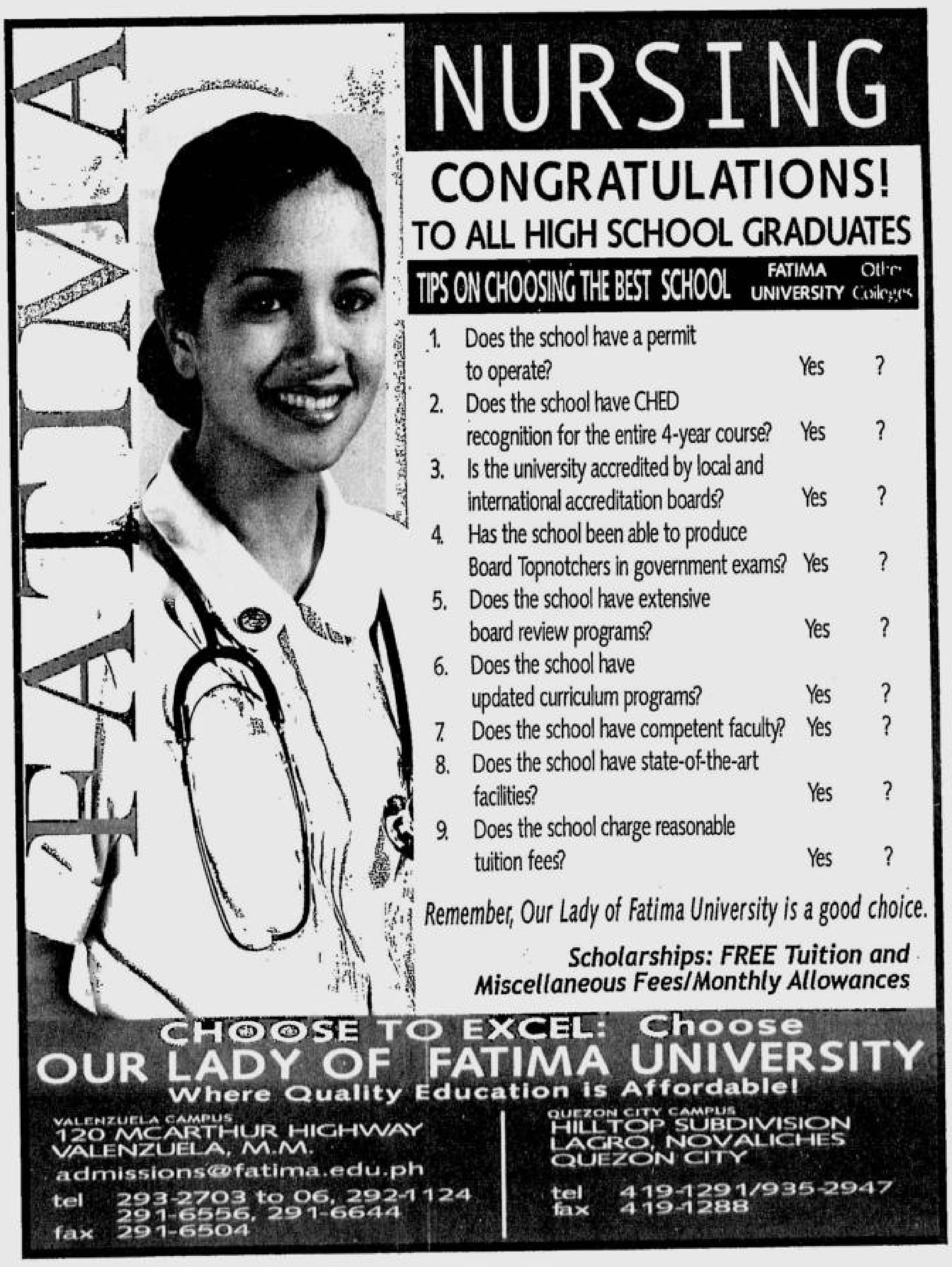
Chumacog and Mestito were detained at the San Narciso town jail and were awaiting trial for murder charges filed by the police, said Supt. Rolando Lahay-Lahay, town police chief.

No bail was recommended for their temporary liberty.

Police reports said Alcantara joined his fellow cadets in a line formation at the PMMA campus in San Narciso town on March 11 when Mestito, a proctor cadet, reprimanded him for smiling.

Mestito and Chumacog then took Alcantara to the proctor's office and confronted him about the offense. It was during the confrontation that Chumacog punched Alcantara thrice.

Alcantara died while being taken to the San Marcelino District Hospital in San Marcelino town. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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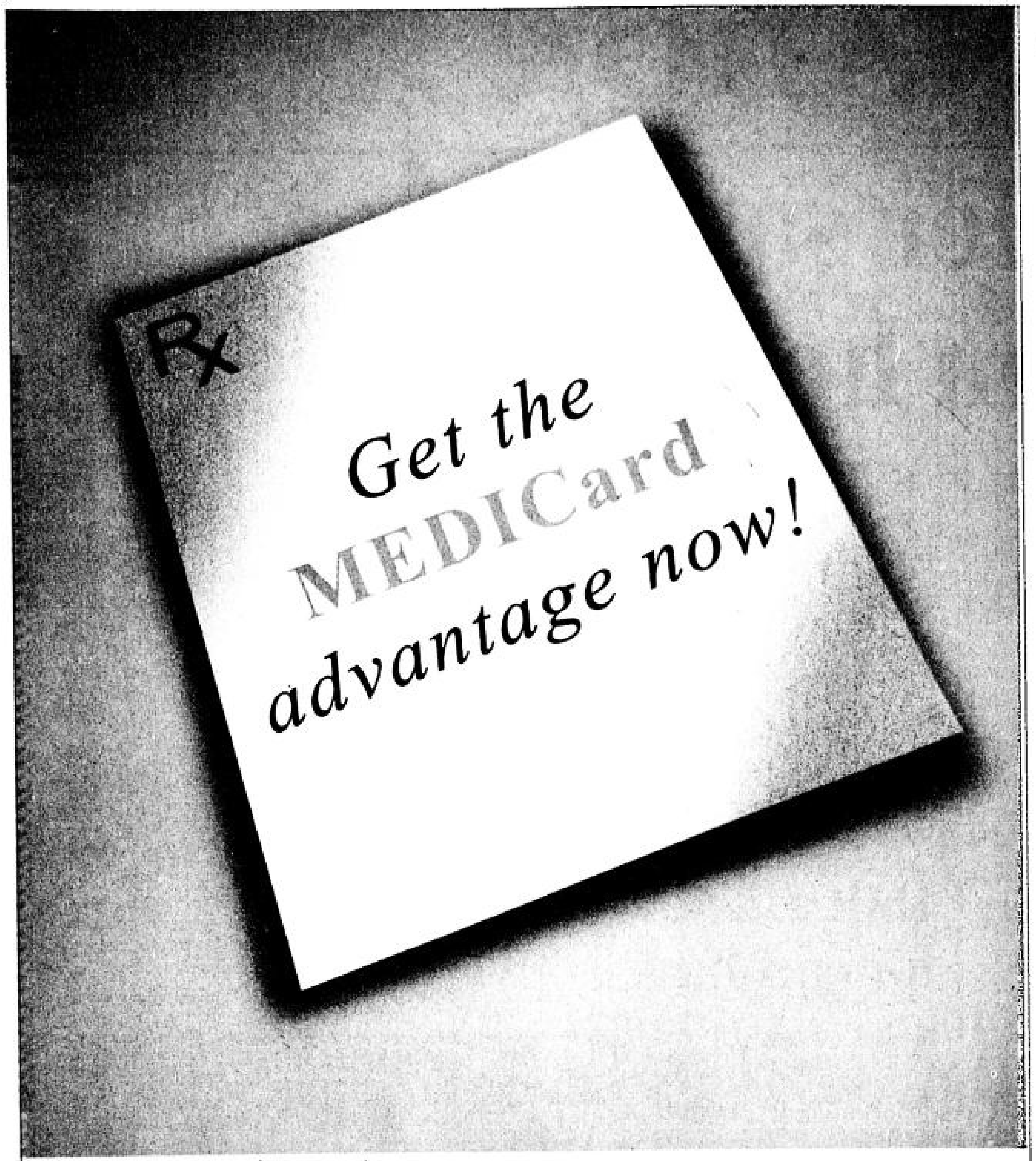

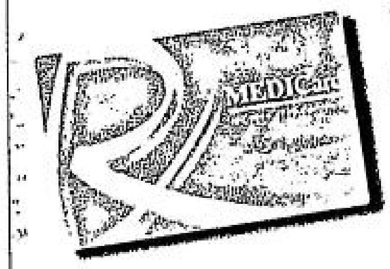

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12 killed as bus hits jeep, van

OAS, Albay—Twelve persons were killed while 13 others were seriously injured when a bus bound for Metro Manila that was trying to overtake hit a jeep and a van along the Maharlika Highway here, some 3 kilometers from the town proper, at around 9:30 a.m. yesterday.

Most of those killed were passengers of the jeep, police said.

Chief Insp. Enrique Ramos, Oas police chief, identified eight of the casualties as Edelyn Belga Mamangon, 27, Mylene Abache and Janelle Abache, from Polangui town; Maria Victoria Alberga, 36, Maria Vanessa Alberga, 3, and Rovic Alberga from Ligao City; Jeremy Oquinalda from Libon, and Wendel Del Monte, 6, from Camalig.

Four others were still unidentified and were still at the Roa Funeral Parlor.

Two of them were girls whose ages were between 3 to 4, one was a young boy and another one, a 2-month-old baby.

Among the 12 passengers of the van, six were injured and were treated at the Lumbis Hospital in Oas town.

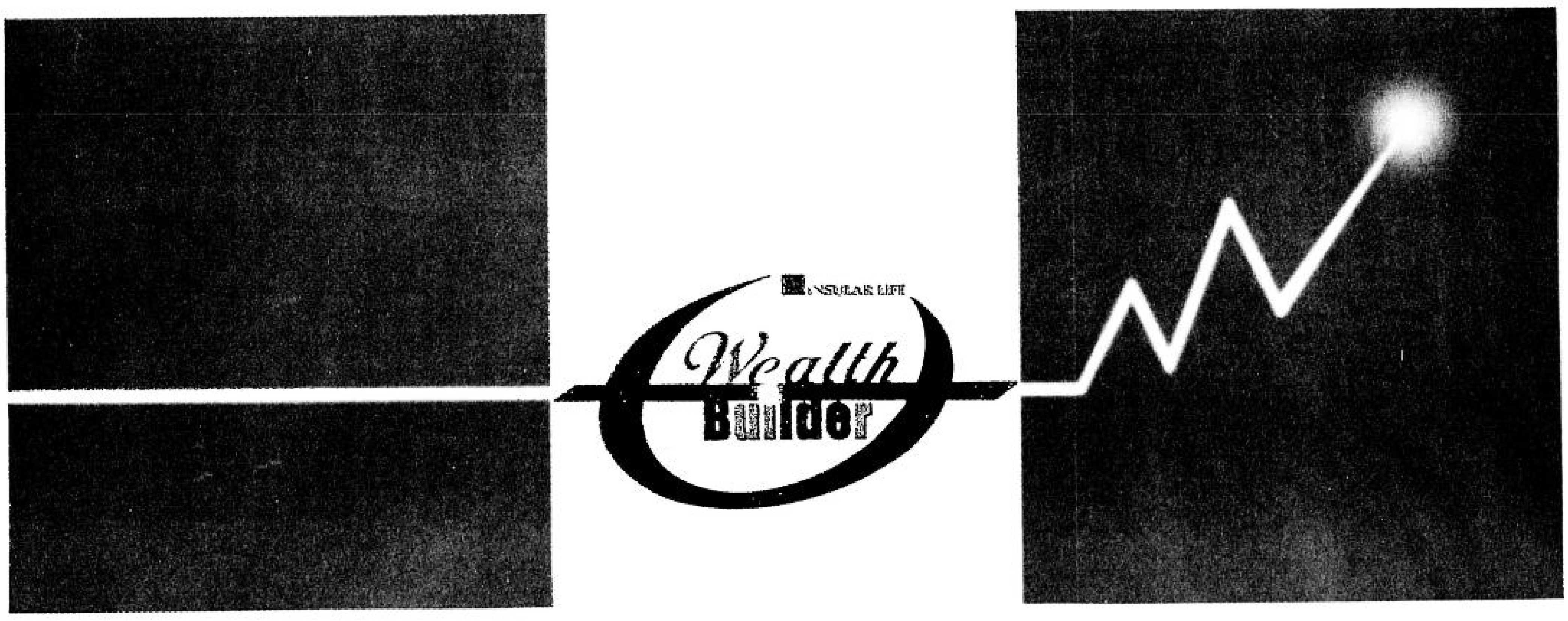
SPO4 Fidel Guinto said the Danrose bus, with license plate EVK 279, was overtaking another bus when it hit the jeepney with license plate EVK 325 and the van with license plate XKG 682.

The jeepney and the van were headed for Legazpi City from Polangui town.

The INQUIRER learned that the van passengers, including a 2-year-old baby from Nabua town in Camarines Sur, were on the way to do shopping in Legazpi City.

Bus passenger Rino Quidep, from Barangay Mahaba, Ligao City, and who attended the first death anniversary of a relative, said he had already a feeling that they would meet an accident because the bus driver seemed to be in a hurry. Angie Belmonte, a jeepney passenger, said as she sobbed that when the jeep they were riding in was hit, she saw her niece and nephew—Jennifer, 5, and Wendel, 6—unconscious, while most of the other passengers were bloodied.

Jose Binaday, 33, the bus driver, claimed that he had a problem with his vehicle's steering wheel. Binaday is now detained at the Oas jail. *Michael B. Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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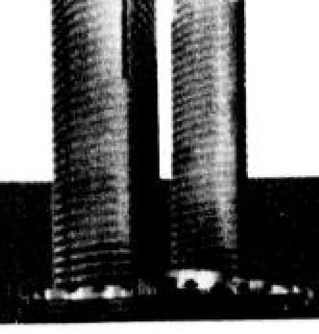

INQUIRER Mindanao

E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

White water rafting in C. de Oro

By JB Deveza
Cagayan de Oro City

IT IS 5:30 on a Monday morning and Rupert Domingo is awakened by the insistent ringing of his cell phone. He had deliberately set the alarm 30 minutes early the night before. He wanted to start early, recheck the equipment, and make sure everything is in order.

He reaches for the phone, turns the alarm off, and swings his feet from bed and stands, still adjusting to a new day. He really should knock off a can or two from his customary eight cans. But yesterday was a particularly good run and a guy is, after all, entitled to some good time with his friends.

He walks to the kitchen and fixes himself a strong cup of coffee. Twelve years, he thinks, and he still gets butterflies in his stomach at the thought of yet another day shooting the rapids.

Soon the rest of the guys from the Cagayan de Oro Whitewater Rafting Adventure Company will begin to arrive at his home which also serves as an office of sorts for the group.

Arrival

At 7 a.m., the three other active members of the company—Tata Bioco, Chisum Factura and Babars Barreto—have arrived together with the two hired jeepneys bearing all the necessary equipment. All are clad in shorts and rubber sandals, the preferred "office" attire, and a short meeting is called to order by Domingo.

Domingo, the godfather of Cagayan de Oro whitewater rafting and the unspoken leader of the group, begins by asking if any of the two jeepney drivers smoke.

"You cannot smoke the whole time you are with us," he tells them.

Domingo explains that smokers often pollute the environment without even their knowing it. Most of the guys that make up the CDO White Water Rafting Co., Domingo says, are former smokers but they all quit the habit after realizing the foolishness of proclaiming themselves avid environmentalists one minute and lighting up a stick the next.

Preparation

At 7:30, with the briefing done, the group packs into the two jeepneys carrying six rafts. They are joined by two more river guides, friends from the Northern Mindanao Mountaineering Society (Normms), and the group proceeds to DV Soria to meet and pick up the day's clients.

The CDO White Water Rafting Adventure Co. was established a decade ago by a group of intrepid outdoorsmen, bonded by years of alcohol-induced camaraderie on mountain top campsites, whose desire to share the love for the outdoors became the cornerstone of a thriving business.

All of the incorporators of the company were members of the Normms and in between climbs, society members would often try other activities related to mountaineering.

"We began thinking about white water rafting in 1993 after seeing the sport in the Discovery Channel," says Tata Bioco.

Bioco recalls their first run 12 years ago, from Taguanao to Carmen Bridge (a distance of eight kilometers), and laughs hysterically with the rest of the group.

No helmets, life vests

"We had no helmets, no life vests," Bioco says.

"What we had was a Sevylor still-water raft, wooden paddles salvaged from bangkas, and lots of bravado borne out of inexperience," Bioco says.

"We had so much fun that right after that first run, all of us were hooked on rafting," Bioco adds.

A year later, the group experienced its first flip. By then, they had tried runs from farther up river, where the rapids ranged from challenging to downright crazy, considering that they had no safety equipment whatsoever.

"That first flip, on June 14, 1994, made us realize the value of having safety gear," Bioco says.

And so the group scrounged around for life vests (most with names of shipping companies prominently printed in front) and helmets (of the sort worn by BMX riders). They also made the inevitable decision to buy a raft specifically designed for white water rafting. They bought their first raft, second-hand, for $900 in the United States.

RAFTERS and outdoorsmen all, the founders of the Cagayan de Oro Whitewater Rafting Adventure Company pose for a souvenir picture before embarking on another adventure in Cagayan de Oro's river.
JB DEVEZA

The following year, out of the prodding of friends, eight Normms members decided to pool their money and invest in a company patterned after the outfitter companies in the United States—companies that provide outdoor guides and equipment for clients, for a fee of course. And so began the Cagayan de Oro White Water Rafting Adventure Company.

Growth

Ten years later, from the unbelievably cheap initial fee of P100, the group now charges P1,200 per person. With 12 white water rafts, each with a carrying capacity of nine paying clients, the group averages three to four runs per week, year-round. The group also no longer uses what they call "tora-tora" safety gear (gear "requisitioned" from various sources) and has invested in a complete line of safety equipment designed for the perils of white water rafting.

Out of the largesse of white water rafting, the group was able to form Sinkhole Ventures last year, a subsidiary that runs the Macahambus Adventure Park. The park is located at the 150-feet deep Macahambus Gorge, the site of a famous battle between Filipino revolutionaries and American soldiers at the turn of the 20th century.

But financial success has dulled none of the group's core concerns; the group's passion for the outdoors has lost none of its luster.

"The river is the lifeblood of our business," Rupert Domingo says.

To minimize the environmental impact of river runs, the group, with the help of local officials and volunteers, regularly conducts river clean-ups twice a month. They also encourage communities along the river to avoid dumping their wastes in the river.

Partly to prod local initiative and partly to help uplift the livelihood of locals, the group distributed livestock to various families, most of whom are also porters for their clients, in exchange for their commitment to keep the river clean.

"It is a pity that not too many people realize the ecological importance of this river," Chisum Factura says.

"Cagayan River serves as a refuge for several plant and animal species," Factura says.

"Kaingin farming, logging, quarrying, and the irresponsible dumping of untreated sewage all do damage that may prove disastrous in the long term," Factura says.

Paddling

"Eeeasy, eeasy, easy," Domingo tells the paddlers in his raft as they approach the last of the 14 rapids. As with each of his 600 runs, his eyes squint in the sunlight, picking out the surest way through the frothing, churning white water. He could feel his muscles, hot with adrenaline, go taut in anticipation of the sudden, frantic, almost hysterical paddling ahead.

"Hard left! Hard left! Hard left!" He calls from astern, quickly adjusting the tempo and direction of his paddling to correct the raft's course. The raft's bow rises convulsively as it rides the crest of the foaming water and is jarred by another and still another and another till it settles in the water, clear at last of the swirling backwash that would have held it.

All cheer as they hold their paddles high in a gesture of jubilation and, to some large extent, relief. And then the silly, sheepish grins at the sight of each other's foolish bravado.

It is now 2:30 p.m. The last four hours has been one of easy, quiet paddling one moment, so quiet one could almost hear the swish of fish underneath, and thundering, roaring paddle strokes battling the white water the next. Domingo smiles as he watches from his perch the satisfied grins of his clients and he thinks, with luck and good health, he could probably do this till he is too old to lift an aluminum paddle. He nods to Factura in the next raft, smiles at the river and thinks, "God it's good to be alive."

Pinakurat

By Aisha A. Echavez
Iligan City

PEOPLE say had I been born a boy, I would be an exact copy of my dad. We share a lot of things from our favorite color, pastime, our dreams and ambition to our favorite dish. Some might think that learning the secrets of a family recipe is passed on by a female member. Not so in my experience.

DUGONG MINDANAW

We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country.—Ed.

Little did I know that while I was growing up, my dad was silently suffering from an illness but like the G.E. freezer he brought home one day, he was like the box heavily insulated from the heat not hinting that something was amiss. The ignorance of the rest of the family of his predicament led to the inevitable emotional gap and near bankruptcy of the family business.

Still I do not want people to think that my dad is a bad person despite his shortcomings. If people would ask me about him, I would not let that moment pass without telling them stories he told me in one of our chess matches or food trips. Here, I will tell you the story of how he got his first real break.

In the 70s, my dad and his friends opened a restaurant across a local college in our city where he used to study. The restaurant became popular to students, teachers and people living near that area because of the affordable prices, efficient service and the menu that featured most of my dad's favorite dishes like *papait*, *kaldereta*, *kare-kare*, *kinilaw* and the then unheard of *pinakurat* from the wild boar meat locally known as *baboy sulop*. In English, *pinakurat* roughly translates to "surprising or sudden manner."

Indeed, the dish is the ultimate surprise to many because its meat is from a banned species taken often on the sly and as fast hunter could outrun it on the forest floor. Despite the risks, the returns are so good, especially if the hunter has to feed so many mouths. In those times of my innocence, a single wild boar could fetch P1,200 and was sold in selected outlets around the city for P65 or for P75 per kilo in restaurants like my dad's.

If the *pinakurat* is prepared quickly, everything happens just as quickly in the forest. The hunters, whose ages ranges from 18 to 50 have to have lots of nerve traversing the forests in Muslim-dominated areas. The hunting has to be done with the knowledge of the forest folk who accept a cut from the sale of this *haram* meat allowing the hunter to pass through carrying the bloody cargo in a bamboo pole. Otherwise he ends up in the *baboy sulop*'s place instead. The baboy sulop is hunted using guns and by the use of bait in the from of round, waxen explosives called "ping pong" because they resemble ping pong balls. *(To be continued)*

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Fund lack suspends food-for-work

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The implementation of the food-for-work program in Eastern Samar was suspended due to the failure of the national government to release the funds needed to implement the program in March.

Virgie Edano, chief operations officer of the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Eastern Visayas, said that without funds, the 10,000 family-beneficiaries of the program could not convert their food coupons into food items from the accredited stores in the province.

She, however, said the program would resume once her office receives the funds.

Under the program, Eastern Samar was to receive P12 million a month to implement the program in the 23 municipalities of the province, Edano said.

The food-for-work program was designed to be implemented for six months with a total funding of P72 million.

For this month, the province, through the National Food Authority (NFA), has yet to receive the P12 million budget that would be used to pay the more than 30 accredited stores.

It is in these accredited stores where the 10,000 beneficiaries, the "poorest of the poor" in Eastern Samar, could get their monthly food subsidy.

The food items consist of rice, mongo and other beans, cooking oil, canned fish, noodles, milk and iodized salt. These items amount to P1,200 per family per month.

The program was launched in the town of Llorente on Nov. 22, 2004 but was only implemented last February as the needed P12 million was only released in January.

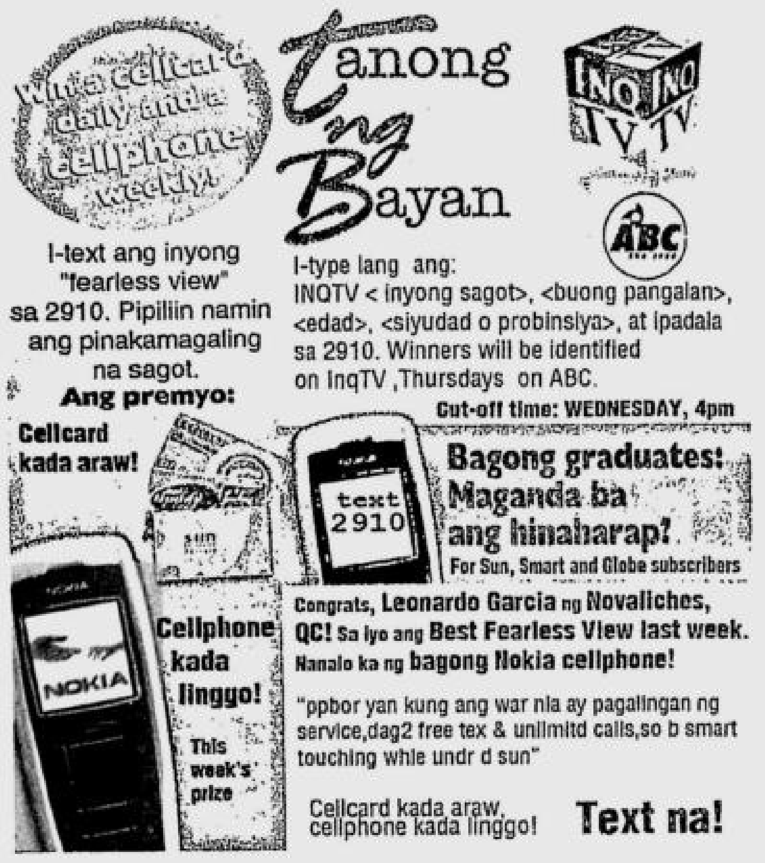
Edano said DSWD provided the fund for first month of the program's implementation. For the remaining months, the fund would come from the presidential social fund, through NFA, she said.

"We have already called the attention of our central office regarding this problem for them to remind the Department of Budget and Management to release the notice of allocation so that the program could resume immediately," Edano added.

Once the DBM releases the notice of cash allocation, the DSWD central office would "download" the money to the NFA-Manila office, which, in turn, would notify its provincial office in Eastern Samar on the release and availability of funds, she said.

The national government's food-for-work program was in response to an earlier survey conducted by the Social Weather Station (SWS) that showed that 15 percent of the Filipino households have experienced hunger at least once.

Beneficiaries include solo parents, families with children from 0-6 years old, families with five or more members, families with chronically ill members, and families with older persons and disabled members.



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Tourists do their 'pilgrimage' in Puerto's beaches, resorts

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The beaches and other tourist attractions became the "pilgrimage" sites of tourists who flocked here during the Holy Week.

For tour operators and tourism-related businesses, the Lent is the best time to earn big bucks.

Gone were the days in this laid-back city where restaurants and other establishments were closed to observe the Lent.

On Holy Friday, a number of restaurants opened to serve the hungry tourists who had gone swimming and basking in the sun the whole day.

Among the favorite destinations in the city are the Honda Bay for island hopping, the Underground River and the posh Dos Palmas Arreceffi Island Resort.

Pump boats at the wharf of Sta. Lourdes had to do two or three trips in Honda Bay on Maundy Thursday and Holy Friday to serve tourists whose number had doubled or tripled because of the peak season.

On lean months, pump boats would even have their turn the next day.

In Honda Bay, Snake Island is the most popular. Unlike Dos Palmas and other islands around the bay, it is free.

Anyone could just enjoy the powdery white sand and the sun at Snake.

Just a few meters from the shore is the relatively healthy coral reef where fishes thrive.

Even children who have just started walking could enjoy fish feeding with their parents because the reef is in shallow areas.

But pump boat operators fear that this season would be the last they could enjoy big sales because of a pending application by some businessmen for a special permit on the island, where a "world-class" hotel will be built.

They think that once it is privatized, they could not just bring in tourists to the island.

Joining the tourists were locals who had also started to go out of their houses to spend the Lent at the beaches. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Alaminos feast goes online

THE FEAST of Alaminos City was beamed live online, a first in the city's history and a step to the city's taking its place in the world of high technology.

Local folk in the city showcased the lively celebration of their feast on-line, for the first time, in many countries throughout the world.

Alaminos City Mayor Hernani Braganza embraced the Web to create a new level of promoting the Hundred Islands as well as the hospitality of Pangasinense.

He wanted Internet surfers worldwide to marvel at the festivity via a live streaming video.

In a press statement, he said he asked Top Information and Communication Technology Co. to open an exclusive catalog for Alaminos City during the feast of St. Joseph through www.alaminoscity.gov.ph.

The festivity brought businessmen and *balikbayans* together during the "Balikbayan Night" and street dancing on March 16 and March 17.

"I understand the feelings of our *kababayan* who could not come home to join the annual event. Remember, Filipinos are very fond of fiestas," Braganza said.

The city government received positive feedback coming from thousands of migrant Filipinos, particularly Pangasinenses, in the United States and Canada.

It also reaped praises from students in Metro Manila, mostly natives of Alaminos City, who failed to take part in the festivity due to a hectic schedule in school.

Once-conjoined RP twins given clean bill of health

From page A1

the Montefiore Medical Center adopted a gradual approach to their separation and performed four operations, including the one that finally separated them on Aug. 4 last year.

"They're making great progress in the past seven months since their surgery, and we want to see them move forward even more," Dr. David Steffenberg, one of the twins' two lead surgeons and their plastic surgeon, said on Good Friday.

The twins returned to the hospital for examination by a gastroenterologist and an ear, nose and throat specialist, according to Children's Hospital spokesperson Steven Osborne.

Other than a lot of ear wax, the boys are fine. Doctors sent them back to Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, where they are receiving physical therapy, speech therapy and nutrition designed to catch them up to normal development.

Arlene Aguirre, the twins' mother, reported that both of her sons were eating solid food. Clarence prefers chicken nuggets, french fries and bread, while Carl enjoys crackers, according to Osborne.

He said doctors also felt the boys could receive new head bandages that would not cover their ears, allowing their auditory skills to develop.

Doctors did CT scans on both children, and the results will be used to construct custom-built plastic helmets for the increasingly active pair.

The helmets will help prevent head injuries during the twins' development. Carl and Clarence spent about three hours at the hospital.

Word of the clean bill of health given to the Aguirre twins was greeted with joy on Saturday at their hometown in Negros Occidental.

"I am happy and we are thankful for all those who helped them," an elated relative, Elsie Aguirre, 60, said of the progress made by Carl and Clarence.

Aguirre said in a telephone interview from Silay City that relatives, neighbors and friends had been awaiting the twins' return and regularly monitoring television news from New York.

"We prayed hard for their successful operation," added the retired school teacher, a cousin of the twins' grandmother, who works at Silay City Hall.

Aguirre said the twins' family was very poor and could not have afforded the separation procedure without help.

Montefiore and Blythedale Children's Hospital have agreed to cover the costs of the operation and the pre- and post-operative care. The surgeons waived their fees. *AP*

CARL Aguirre, right, plays with a doll as his twin brother Clarence sleeps while they wait to be examined at The Children's Hospital at Montefiore, Friday in New York. The formerly conjoined twins, who were separated Aug. 4, 2004, are now eating solid food after both received a clean bill of health. They will be celebrating their third birthday on April 21. AP

Lenten threat over–AFP

From page A1

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday gave the military and the police a pat on the back for a job well done in maintaining security throughout the Holy Week amid bombing threats by the Abu Sayyaf.

The President gave special mention to the confiscation by intelligence agents of 10 sacks of explosives on Holy Wednesday, which she believed was the key to a peaceful Easter holiday.

But Ms Arroyo urged the public not to let their guard down against the lingering threat from the Abu Sayyaf to launch bomb attacks in high traffic areas in Metro Manila and Mindanao this week.

"As for the raid (in a Fairview apartment where the explosives were discovered), I would like to congratulate our security community because that was very successful and that really prevented a lot of what would have happened otherwise," said the President at a briefing in Sagada, Mt. Province.

Retaliatory attacks

The President had ordered authorities to go on full alert during the Holy Week on intelligence reports that the Abu Sayyaf was lining up retaliatory attacks for the death of 22 members in the Bicutan prison crisis.

"But we have to continue our vigilance. As I commend our security community, they also know that their work is not over and they continue to do the investigations and the hunting down of plotters of all the the would-be sowers of terrorism in the country," the President said.

Last week, a JI operative revealed that the Abu Sayyaf was planning to carry out a fresh wave of bomb attacks in Metro Manila and in at least one city in Mindanao,

"(Director) General Arturo Lomibao's order is to maintain a full alert status as long as necessary, even if the threat is (already) drastically reduced," Bataoil said.

Lomibao himself has not completely counted out the Abu Sayyaf in the metropolis. "The alert is still up," he said in a phone interview. "We are not letting our guard down."

While there has been a significant headway in the campaign against Abu Sayyaf cells in Metro Manila, many of their members have not yet been arrested, according to Lomibao.

Would-be bombers might have stashed bomb materials somewhere, which they could still use, he said.

Nine bombers

Just before the Holy Week, the police disclosed that at least nine bombers from two terrorist cells had been sent to Metro Manila and other major cities in the country.

Not one of them has been arrested.

Asked if Metro Manila was safe in the next few days despite the revelation of an alleged JI operative that the Abu Sayyaf had been ordered to strike, Bataoil said:

"Yes, that's our assurance."

He said Metro Manila and other urban centers were kept safe by police and military security operations.

"But of course we would like our people to maintain vigilance. They will strike when they are least expected or when we are caught off guard," Bataoil said.

Days after the bomb attack in Makati on Valentine's Day, the authorities arrested Gamal "Tapay" Baharan and Angelo Trinidad, alias Abu Khalil Trinidad, in a poor section in Mandaluyong City.

Police said the two men carried out the bus bombing last month in Makati. A third suspect, Gappal Bannah, also fell to authorities in Camarines Sur early this month.

Bomb expert arrested

Then last week, police arrested Rohmat, an Indonesian also known as "Zaki," who allegedly trained Abu Sayyaf members in bomb-making.

In a rare interview allowed by the Armed Forces, Rohmat said the Abu Sayyaf had sent out orders to followers to conduct a fresh wave of bomb attacks in Metro Manila and in a city in Mindanao in the last week of this month.

He said the plotters included elements within the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, one of whom was paid P100,000 to help carry out the attacks.

Rohmat said top Abu Sayyaf leaders Abu Solaiman and Khadaffy Janjalani gave the orders for the attacks early this month. (The Abu Sayyaf has claimed responsibility for the Valentine's Day bombings in the cities of Makati, Davao and General Santos which killed eight people and wounded more than 150.)

The military described Rohmat, 25, as a bomb expert serving as the liaison officer of the JI with the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

On the day Rohmat made these claims, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) raided an apartment in Quezon City and seized 10 sacks of chemicals used in bomb-making.

Bomb experts said the explosives—if turned into a car bomb—could pack enough power to blow up a two-story building or maim an untold number of people in a crowded place.

Besides the 10 sacks of explosives, intelligence agents confiscated 18 canisters of improvised explosive devices, a personal computer, and a video camera with several tapes in an apartment on Lilac Street in Fairview, Quezon City.

Another arrest

The agents earlier arrested Tyrone Dave Santos, also known as Daud Santos, in Cubao, Quezon City. Santos' arrest led to the discovery of the explosives in Fairview, Quezon City, according to officials.

"The capture of Santos and the subsequent recovery of this large amount of explosive has foiled a major plan of the Abu Sayyaf Group to conduct more bombings in urban centers," the military said.

Santos is said to be the brother of Ahmed Santos, leader of the Raja Solaiman Revolutionary Movement, an extremist group of "Balik Islam" converts.

The apartment where the explosives were seized was rented by Ahmed Santos, according to Director Robert Delfin, chief of the PNP Directorate for Intelligence.

"The threat has been reduced but the threat remains," Delfin said on the day the bomb materials were discovered. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

'It ain't over yet'

By Jocelyn R. Uy
Metro

THEY can't heave a sigh of relief just yet.

Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia Jr., Southern Police District (SPD) director, said the police are still on guard.

He said the Holy Week had been "peaceful so far" although abandoned packages in some areas had raised fears that these were bombs planted by terrorists.

On Wednesday, an unattended package, which turned out to be a box of grocery items, caused a slight disruption in the operations of a bus terminal in Pasay City.

"The crucial day is not yet over," Garcia said on the phone, adding that the police will still be on heightened alert today, Easter Sunday.

He said the police would focus their attention on churches where people would converge for the "Salubungan" and Easter Masses.

Checkpoints, inspections and mobile patrols are continuing, he said.

In a previous interview, he said a satellite police station had been set up on Redemptorist Road and Roxas Boulevard to augment the Parañaque City police forces stationed there.

The unit will also protect Baclaran Church, where the number of churchgoers is expected to significantly increase today, according to Garcia.

But after Easter, the police could still not let their guard down, he said.

The police would still be on heightened alert until the 112th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly ends.

About 2,000 parliamentarians from around the world are expected to take part in the assembly to be held in Manila from April 3 to 8.

"But we are expecting the delegates to start arriving on March 27 or 28," Garcia told the INQUIRER.

He said the security measures for the assembly were a collective work of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Areas of convergence will be protected, especially the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City, Garcia said. Route and close-in security will also be provided.

"The close-in security for the VIPs will be provided by the Philippine National Police Security and Protection Office," he said.

Hotels in Metro Manila, where the delegates will be staying for the rest of the event, will also be highly secured, the SPD chief said.

Garcia said some 700 SPD personnel would be deployed for the IPU assembly.

The transfiguration of Boy Camara

From page A1

was the coaching of Rey Paguio of the UP Conservatory of Music.

When he was in high school in San Sebastian College, he was guitarist-vocalist in a band called Glenmore, together with now rock legend Mike Hanopol.

By the time Camara was at UP, he had a band called Birth of the Cool, which performed in a club on Roxas Boulevard. A year later it was renamed The Afterbirth, performing in two clubs for three years.

It was at this time when he came out with the first of his two albums, "Boy Camara and The Afterbirth," released in 1972. He interpreted the 12 song covers comprising the album in a style that was at once pop, rock, jazz, rhythm and blues—the ambivalent sound of the Age of Aquarius.

The band disbanded in 1974, and Camara helped put up The Vanishing Tribe, which became a staple in the musical scoring of Ishmael Bernal's movies. By then the sound had turned slightly experimental—half-jarring, half-melodious.

In 1982, Camara released his second and last album, "Dinosaur," consisting of 10 songs and now considered a gem by some music aficionados.

Three years later, he tried to recapture lost glory by again starring in an unfortunate production of "Jesus Christ Superstar," which closed after one performance largely because of lack of publicity and funding.

He even appeared in a few obscure movies, one of which was "Power People," an unreleased movie about UP student activism, co-starring Celeste Legaspi and directed by Ronnie Puno with Mike de Leon as cinematographer.

Sedate life

And so the golden boy faded from the scene, seen only by family and friends and occasional audiences in weddings and impromptu programs.

With his life now centered on family, he seems to have left his musical career for good, and doesn't seem to care. He says he doesn't even vocalize and rehearse when he's invited to sing at parties.

The middle child of three siblings, he was born Ruperto Camara to optometrist parents from Tayabas, Quezon. He grew up in the old Sta. Cruz district of Manila, where his parents had an optical shop.

He was married for 20 years to Luisa Que with whom he had three sons. She died of complications from diabetes in 1992.

Three years later, he married Bernadette Pascual, a widow he met in a solo-parents group encounter, and welcomed three stepchildren into the family.

Camara is into the family business of contract manufacturing of toothbrushes as well as blister packaging. He is the production manager.

With his sons living in the United States, he has left their house in Heroes' Hills in Quezon City and settled with his new family in BF Homes in Parañaque. He has a two-year-old grandson by his eldest son.

It's now a relatively sedate life for Camara. There is no more of that iconic image of the slim young man with long hair; in its place is a picture of a middle-aged solid citizen of the republic, clean-cut, with a rather puffy face.

Caregiver

He admits to no scandal even in his youth, as he had a fairly middle-class upbringing. He may have grown up amid the drug culture, but he says he did nothing more serious than puff on a few joints.

Camara has to stay for some months every year in the United States to maintain his status as a green card holder. But home is always here.

"At my age, I can't see life in the US," he says.

In fact, his parents who were US residents chose to return and spend their last days in the old country. He was prepared for caregiving and had bought two wheelchairs for them.

But his father died of a heart attack in 2003, and his mother was diagnosed with cancer that same year. It was considered benign but it recurred and was found to be malignant the following year.

He believes that her ailment was hastened by his father's death.

Every day Camara accompanied his 81-year-old mother to St. Luke's Hospital for radiation therapy, until she was bedridden for three months, in a stupor. He was considering buying a hospital bed and an oxygen concentrator and taking care of her at home when she died.

That evening at the garden party, barely a week after her burial, the crestfallen son was crooning "As Time Goes By." Again his small audience loudly applauded.

"Those are the songs my father likes," said a man in his late 20s. "I could not appreciate them, until now."

Said another: "His voice is different. It's delightful to listen to. It's like he's administering a massage."

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Woman is 4th journalist slain this year

From page A1

As resident ombudsman, Esperat had filed charges against various agriculture officials for alleged corruption.

Her crusade against corruption in the agency led to her resignation in 2004.

During one of her interviews with the INQUIRER, Esperat said she was getting frustrated with the government's response to corruption. She said then that she would have to find other ways to expose anomalies involving government projects.

"We are still establishing the motive of the killing but we are not discounting it could have been due to her work. She had been writing hard-hitting commentaries," the NUJP quoted Supiter as saying.

Carlos Conde, NUJP secretary general, said frustration with the government's response was common among those who were fighting corruption.

Culture of impunity

"In Esperat's case, she knew a lot of things," he said.

Conde said the government might have even "contributed to her demise" for failing to address the cases she had filed against some people.

Conde also called on the police "to do their best in solving Ezperat's murder."

"More and more of our colleagues are being murdered and it is the responsibility of the police to stop the violence by ensuring that the killers are brought to justice," he said.

"This culture of impunity must stop."

A widespread culture of violence—often condoned by government officials—was to blame for the murder of several Filipino journalists in the past year, representatives of the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said during a visit to the Philippines in January.

Most dangerous after Iraq

The Philippines was the world's second deadliest place for journalists after Iraq last year, IFJ said.

The director general of Unesco condemned last week the assassination of two Filipino journalists—Romeo Sanchez and Arnulfo Villanueva.

Sanchez, of the Bayan Muna party, was a broadcaster at dzNL in San Fernando City. He was shot dead by a gunman in a market in Baguio City on March 9.

Villanueva, a columnist for the Asian Star Express Balita community newspaper, was shot dead on the night of Feb. 28 in Naic, Cavite.

The first Filipino journalist killed this year was Edgar Amoro, a witness to the murder of Edgar Damalerio, a broadcaster, in 2002. Amoro was shot dead in Pagadian City on Feb. 2.

Those responsible should be tried and punished if freedom of expression is to be protected in the country, Ko-chiro Matsuura said.

"I condemn the murders of Romeo Sanchez and of Arnulfo Villanueva," the Unesco director general said in a statement.

Attack on democracy

He said the the use of assassination to silence journalists was a grievous attack on democracy. "It deprives society as a whole of the fundamental human right to freedom of expression and cannot be tolerated. Free and open debate is an essential component of democracy, which has no place for political assassination," Matsuura said.

"I trust that the Philippine authorities will do all they can to find the culprits and bring them to justice," he added. "It is only through swift and determined action against those who use violence to silence the media that the tragic frequency with which journalists are assassinated in the Philippines can be reduced," he said.

At least eight journalists died last year in the Philippines in circumstances suggesting that they may have been killed for exercising their profession, according to the World Association of Newspapers.

Unesco is the only United Nations agency with a mandate to defend freedom of expression and press freedom.

Article 1 of its Constitution requires Unesco to "further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations," Matsuura said.

To realize this, Unesco is required to "collaborate in the work of advancing the mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples, through all means of mass communication and to that end recommend such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image," he said.

With a report from AP

The Da Vinci ...

From page A1

The Vatican stepped up its attack on the bestseller despite a warning by a Brazilian cardinal that the controversy would only boost sales of the thriller.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, whose official title is "Preacher of the Papal Household," made his scathing comments on the book in a sermon to an array of cardinals and other Vatican officials during a "Passion of the Lord" service commemorating Christ's death.

In his passionate sermon, the bearded preacher said some people today were ready to believe anything because they no longer believed in God.

"In an unending stream of novels, films and plays, writers manipulate the figure of Christ under cover of imaginary and nonexistent new documents and discoveries. This is becoming a fashion, a literary genre," Cantalamessa said in one of several clear references to the bestseller by US author Dan Brown.

The novel is an international murder mystery centered on attempts to uncover a secret about the life of Jesus Christ that a clandestine society has tried to protect for centuries.

The central tenet of the book is that Jesus married Mary Magdalene and had children. Christians are taught that Jesus never married, was crucified and rose from the dead.

Cantalamessa, who did not mention the book by name, attacked it, saying: "Our time, obsessed as it is with sex, seems unable to portray Jesus in any other way than as a homosexual, or as one who taught that salvation is to be found in uniting with the feminine principle and gave the example by marrying Mary Magdalene. The passion and the crucifixion of Christ? All later inventions of the Church!"

Holy Grail

A central storyline in the book is that the Holy Grail is not the cup which Christ is said to have used at the Last Supper but the bloodline descended from Jesus and Mary Magdalene.

Cantalamessa accused such novels and films of exploiting Christ's name for commercial gain.

"It is trading on the vast resonance of the name of Christ and on all that he means to a large part of humankind, to achieve wide publicity at very little cost... this is literary and artistic parasitism," he said.

On his website, Brown rejects anti-Christian charges.

The book's publishers, Doubleday, have said the book merely explored centuries-old ideas "in an accessible work of fiction."

In his sermon Cantalamessa echoed previous accusations against the book by other Vatican officials who have slammed the book as an attack against religion.

"Yet if in some extreme cases believers react and phone to protest about these things, some people are scandalized and decry it as intolerance and censorship," Cantalamessa said.

"Intolerance has changed sides in our day, at least in the West—where we used to have religious intolerance, we now have intolerance of religion!"

Earlier this month, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, who has been leading the Vatican's charge against the book, urged Catholics in an interview with Reuters to shun it like rotten food and branded it "a sack full of lies" insulting the Christian faith.

Bertone urged Catholic book stores to take the thriller off their shelves.

No big problem

In Brazil, however, a top Roman Catholic cardinal played down a Vatican drive to shun "The Da Vinci Code" and argued the controversy would only further fuel sales of the bestseller.

"It isn't a big problem," Cardinal Claudio Hummes, a leading candidate to succeed the ailing Pope John Paul II, told the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper last week. "We know it's a big farce and that it did well commercially. The more people talk about the book, the happier the author will be."

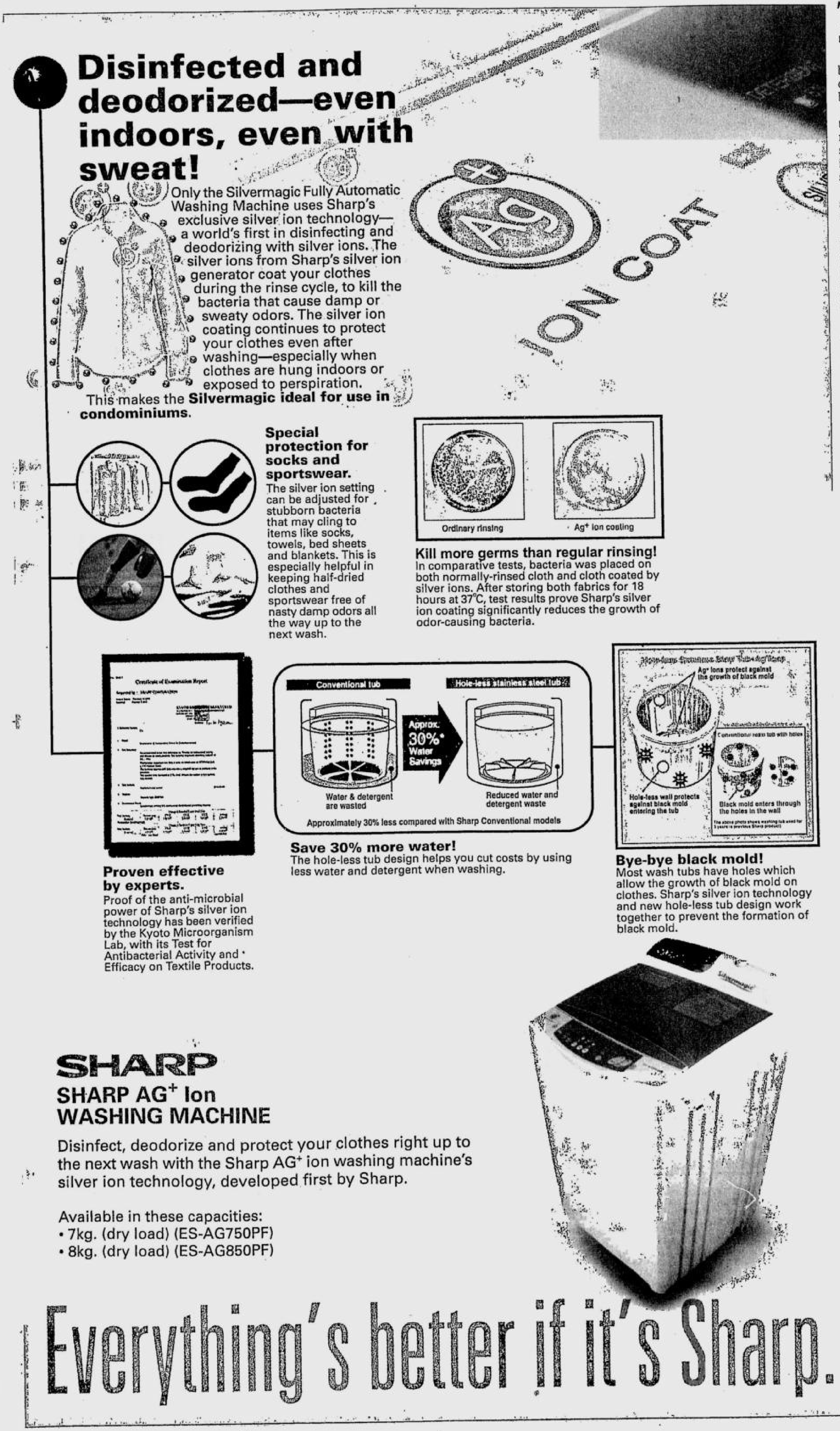
Hummes, who as the archbishop of Sao Paulo oversees the largest Catholic congregation in the most populous Catholic country of the world, tried to tone down Bertone's criticisms of "The Da Vinci Code" as these may be viewed as an attempt to dictate what Catholics may and may not read.

"Cardinal Bertone thought it was correct, with relation to his archdiocese, to warn against the book. It's a right he has. But the index of prohibited books does not exist anymore," Hummes said.

"The Church doesn't censor. It tries to guide its faithful through catechism," he added.

Up until 1966, the Vatican had an index of prohibited books it started in 1559 as part of the Roman Inquisition to censor what Catholics read.

Reuters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Science expo showcases student inventions

By Tina Santos

FEATI University has always prided itself of its students' inventiveness and pursuit for technological innovation.

Recently, another batch of the university's inventors showcased their work during the school's 59th founding anniversary.

Dubbed as "Science and Technology Expo 2005," the exhibit displayed student and department entries that ranged from simple to complex and highly innovative ideas.

The exhibit had "Techno-e-volution" as its theme as it highlighted the ever evolving nature of technology.

Among the inventions the university's creative young minds produced included the Low-Cost Coin Counter (coin sensing and sorting technique), the Motor Generator Set (an energy-generating device), Energy Collector (a study on converting energy from water flowing through the pipelines into electricity), and Spinach Solar Cell (generating electricity through a chip that uses spinach proteins to turn sunlight into usable energy).

Top three inventions

But university officials gave top recognition to three outstanding inventions: "Substitute for Epoxy Mixtures," which won first place; "On-Line Publications," which got second place; and "Bio-fuel Cell from Household Pests" was named third.

A project of the Chemical Engineering Department, "Substitute for Epoxy in Mixtures" uses animal protein as the main agent which the student-exhibitors claimed might prove to be more economical than epoxy in sealing cracks in concrete structures.

Their product have the same qualities as that of the common epoxy but with higher strength and less curing time, the chemical engineering students added.

Meanwhile, information technology students presented two Feati online publications, the "Netizen" and "The Alternative Voices," which will be made more accessible via a common web page.

The "Netizen" is a technical student publication containing current information, trends, step-by-step guides, tips and discussions written in a clear, concise presentations.

"The Alternative Voices," on the other hand, is a potpourri of features and opinions in various topics on pressing social concerns, including advocacies and criticisms from different viewpoints.

Another group chose to make use of household pests, including mosquitoes, flies and cockroaches, as an alternative to fuel or cell batteries to generate power.

"Using this process, households may soon be able to cut-down their power costs and, at the same time, get rid of pests," said chemical engineering students of their "Biofuel Cell" project.

Prior to the exhibit, the school gave P2,500 to each group participant whose project was approved for exhibit by the Research, Development and Extension Department.

"We believe in the ingenuity of our students. That's why we support them in every way we can," said Margaret Araneta Segovia, Feati chief finance and chief administrative officer.

"I believe these are (the) future engineers, innovators, scientists and researchers of our country. They will definitely play a critical role in our society," she added.

Amid threats, faithful join Good Friday rites

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TERRORIST threats have failed to stop thousands of devotees from flocking to churches in Manila, Friday, according to Western Police District (WPD) director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong.

"It was really surprising, the increase in the number of people visiting the churches was very noticeable," Bulaong said in a phone interview.

The WPD chief said the streets around the major churches were congested with devotees and caused heavy traffic in the city.

"There were around 500,000 people who attended the Black Nazarene procession at the Quiapo Church alone," Bulaong said, adding that the smaller churches in the city also had their own share of devotees.

Bulaong attributed the significant increase of churchgoers to the assurance of security in the city.

He said that aside from increased police visibility, volunteers from different sectors like the Muslim community also ensured safety in the places of worship.

"Except for some petty crimes, there were no untoward incidents in the city," Bulaong said.

National Muslim Peace and Order Coordinating Council chair Datu Amerol-Gulam Ambiong had deployed a hundred volunteer Muslims in different churches in Manila to look out for possible terrorists.

Ex-seminarian builds 'palace' for poor

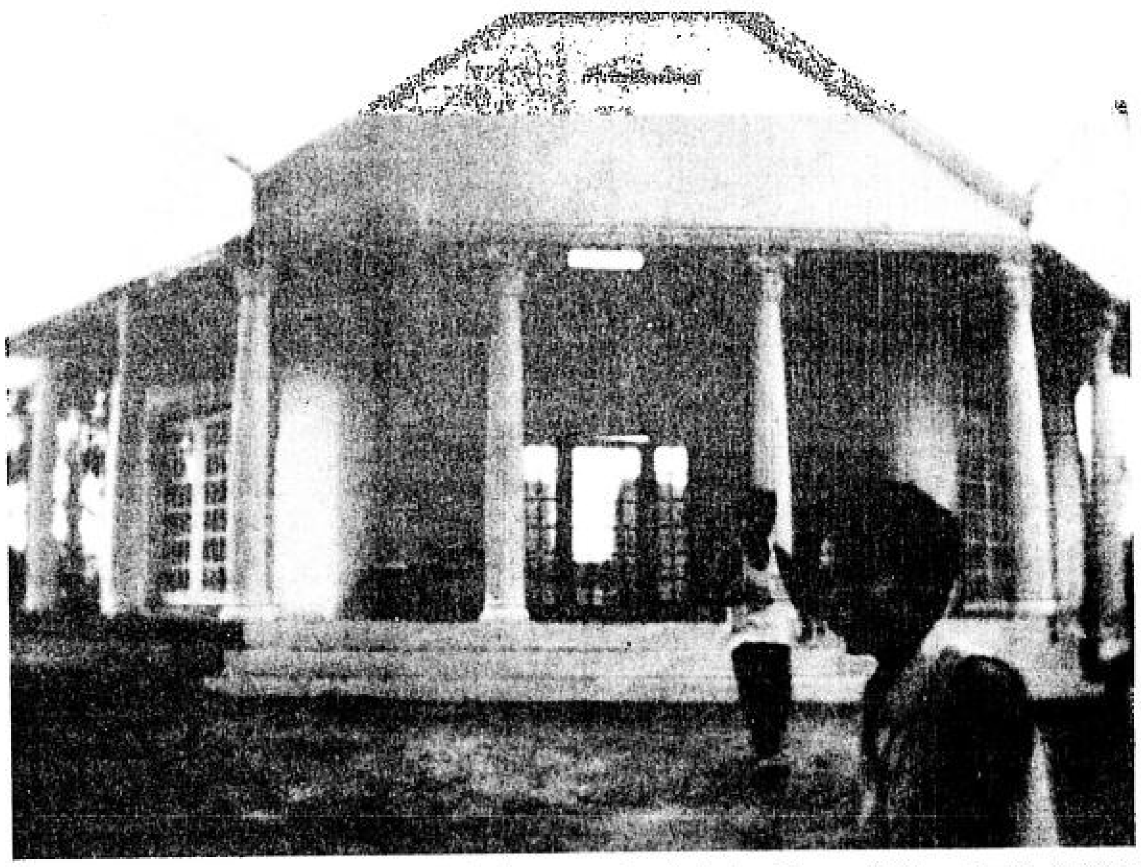
By Michael Lim Ubac

A RETURN to the basics of life.

Lawyer Bernardo Calibo, an ex-seminarian, is advocating a community life in which one will find abundance in simple things.

And he sees simplicity as poor families living in a palace built amid a self-sustaining farm in Barangay San Luis, Antipolo City.

In this community nestled on a quiet mountaintop, poor parents and their children share the fruits of their labor, and hopefully live in perpetual harmony.



ABOVE, members of the two core families living in the "palace" on the hill belonging to lawyer Leonardo Calibo enjoy a quiet afternoon together. At right is the "palace," showing its corinthian pillars and two rooms. Soon, five more rooms will be added to the structure.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Heaven on earth'

Talk about heaven on earth.

But Calibo, chief of the personnel and administrative service of the National Police Commission, believes the construction of the palace is only the manifestation of the principles that guide a program he christened Basic Economic Community (BEC).

"It is about time that there be a paradigm shift from a pursuit of prosperity based on employment to one based on other models that have been successful through the centuries," he says.

"We do not have to reinvent the wheel," says Calibo, explaining that the BEC, with some substantial modifications, was patterned after the lifestyle of the Societas Verbi Divini, or the Society of the Divine Word, a Catholic missionary group founded by St. Arnold Janssen of Germany.

Difference

One basic difference is that members of Calibo's BEC are poor families, whereas priests and brothers comprise the missionary group.

He says the BEC takes care of the daily needs of the members—food, shelter, clothing, medicine and education—by adopting certain Amish agri-practices.

The Amish, he says, are a group of people living in self-contained communities in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and other US states.

The BEC program is also comparable to the back-to-the-earth movement in the US, which developed the theme of man's return to the land where he can best control his economic needs, and thus achieve independence.

Farming and carpentry

Essentially agriculture-based, the community is now being pioneered by two families—one devoted to farming, the other to carpentry and construction.

"We selected farmers and masons to comprise the initial phase of the program because some of the pioneers should till the land for food, while the others build the palace," Calibo explains.

"There are no expenses for labor because the carpenter-mason does the construction, with assistance from the farmers. As more families come, they will participate in self-help activities, a concretization of the *bayanihan* concept," says Calibo.

With a little help from the Boholano Association of Metro Manila, which he has headed for the past eight years, Calibo has been subsidizing the construction of the palace since 2003.

Painted white, the bungalow-type palace is supported by Corinthian pillars and adorned with French windows.

When completed, it will have seven rooms facing one another, and an eighth which will serve as a foyer.

So far, only two rooms have been completed. The rest would be ready by June, in time for the arrival of five more poor families pre-selected by the association.

The palace sits conspicuously atop a hill, which is circled by fruit-bearing trees and root crops. A narrow cemented path—built over time by the two families—winds down to the main road.

Other palaces are expected to be built as more families qualify for the program.

Employment problems

Calibo says the BEC is an antidote to poverty because it addresses unemployment and underemployment.

"Who needs jobs when one can have all that he needs, and a standard of living that is better than those enjoyed by most families?" he says.

While the unemployed sit in roadside stalls to pass away time, the BEC families "spend their time producing food in their garden, building a house for themselves, making quality clothing for their families."

Calibo explains that the BEC program makes a legitimate shortcut of the people-work-to earn-money principle, by "going direct to the raising of quality food, weaving of quality clothing, construction of quality houses."

The program also includes "food for the soul" to enrich their spiritual well-being, he adds.

Calibo and his Boholano friends have more ambitious dreams, such as putting the families on the road to self-education.

These will be taught computer literacy "balanced with training in the science and art of logic to enable them to analyze and reason out for themselves."

He says this will prepare them for other types of industries and enterpreneurship to provide income to the BEC.

To defend themselves, the families will be trained in martial arts such as judo.

Calibo says the BEC aims to prove that hope is not found in the stars, or the sands, but dwells among people who know the essence of life.

The soon-to-be-completed palace may be a far cry from the posh houses of Forbes Park residents, but it is a self-sustaining home amid the inadequacies and turbulence of city life, he says.

Deep wounds cut through this testament to God's healing

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

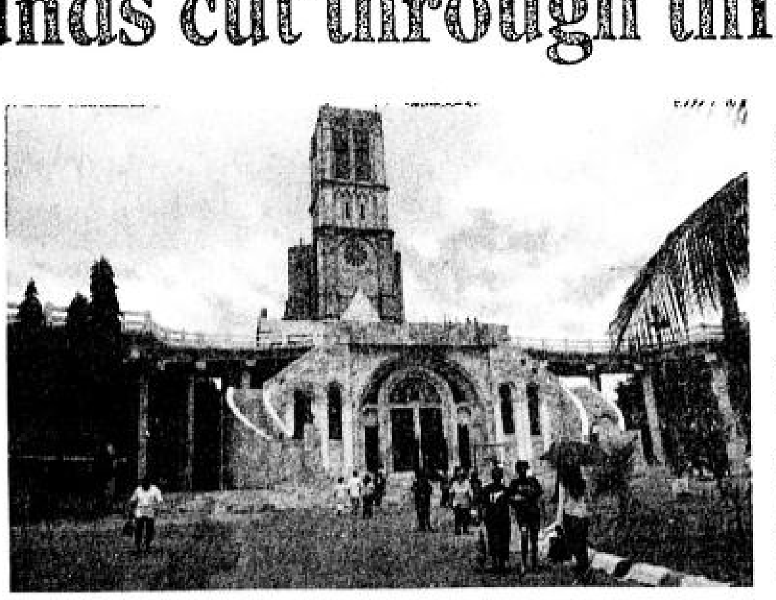
WITH or without the blessings of the Roman Catholic Church, people continue to flock to the private Lourdes Grotto in San Jose Del Monte City in Bulacan.

For its private owner, this is a true expression of faith.

For the Diocese of Malolos, this is devotion in danger of falling prey to misrepresentation.

The shrine, a faithful replica of the miraculous Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in France, stands on a four-hectare hilly private lot in Barangay Gaya-Gaya.

It was built by Anita Guanzon as a testament to her faith and a symbol of her gratitude to the Our Lady of Lourdes.



A HANDFUL of pilgims is seen coming and going to the grotto's chapel on Good Friday.

JOAN BONDOC

She was diagnosed to have cancer of the uterus in 1961. Given by doctors three to six months to live, she was resigned to death.

But after a pilgrimage to the Grotto in France, she came home cured and lived for the next 30 years.

Right after she came back, she started working on the grotto's replica, complete with a church, on top of which another basilica is being finished; a Calvary Hill with 127 statues depicting the 14 Stations of the Cross; a Rosary Hill; a spring under a cave-like structure housing a statue of the Our Lady of Lourdes which the family imported from France.

When Anita died in 1990, her eldest daughter Marietta took over.

Up to 1996, the Diocese of Malolos gave the grotto its own chaplains, until Marietta and the local Church had a falling out.

That year, then grotto chaplain Msgr. Jose Aguinaldo and his staff walked out and never returned.

In an INQUIRER article in 1996, Aguinaldo said Marietta disobeyed Church regulations and even meddled in the ministering of liturgical services.

In an interview last week, Marietta said the diocese had wanted her to surrender the grotto and the land where it stands to the Church.

"I did not. Our parents told us never to give the grotto away because this is where we all grew up," she said.

Her parents' remains are also buried under the cave built for the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Her refusal, she said, made the diocese pull out its priests from the grotto.

But Diocese of Malolos vice chancellor Pablo Legaspi said the diocese never had the intention of grabbing the property and said the allegation was "unfair to the diocese."

The rift between the grotto owners and the diocese grew when management allegedly began allowing suspended priests or those under sanctions to say Mass there.

Ranulfo Seno, 69, have heard about the issue. But he and his wife were at the grotto on Holy Tuesday, going around the Stations of the Cross as they have done for almost three decades.

"You can go wherever you want. What's important is the faith you have," Seno said.

Despite old age and the couple of hours they have to travel from Pasay City, he and his wife, Trinidad, enjoy going to the grotto.

Marietta said that just like in the original, people had experienced miracles and healings at their grotto.

Many crutches hang on the left side of the artificial cave as testaments to such healings, she said.

The spring, which used to be open but is now encased in glass windows and is just flowing through three faucets, also continues to attract believers, carrying plastic gallons and bottles.

The grotto grounds is full of stalls selling native delicacies, drinks, sandwiches, dresses and even toys.

There are also stalls of popular fast food chains in front of the church and near the picnic area.

A stall owner who has maintained stalls at the grotto for 30 years currently pays the management P75,000 every six months for three outlets, proof of brisk business.

Stalls sell calendars for P20, pictures for P10, statues for as much as P2,000, plastic water containers for P50 and candles.

Using the toilet costs P2 and parking space is P20.

Donations, some for hundreds of thousands of pesos, also keep on coming, said Marietta.

The latest she received were a dozen new electric fans from Maritess Villaroel, wife of Panfilo Villaroel who took over a control tower at the Manila International Airport on Nov. 8, 2003.

The couple used to go to the grotto during their wedding anniversary. Last year, she went alone.

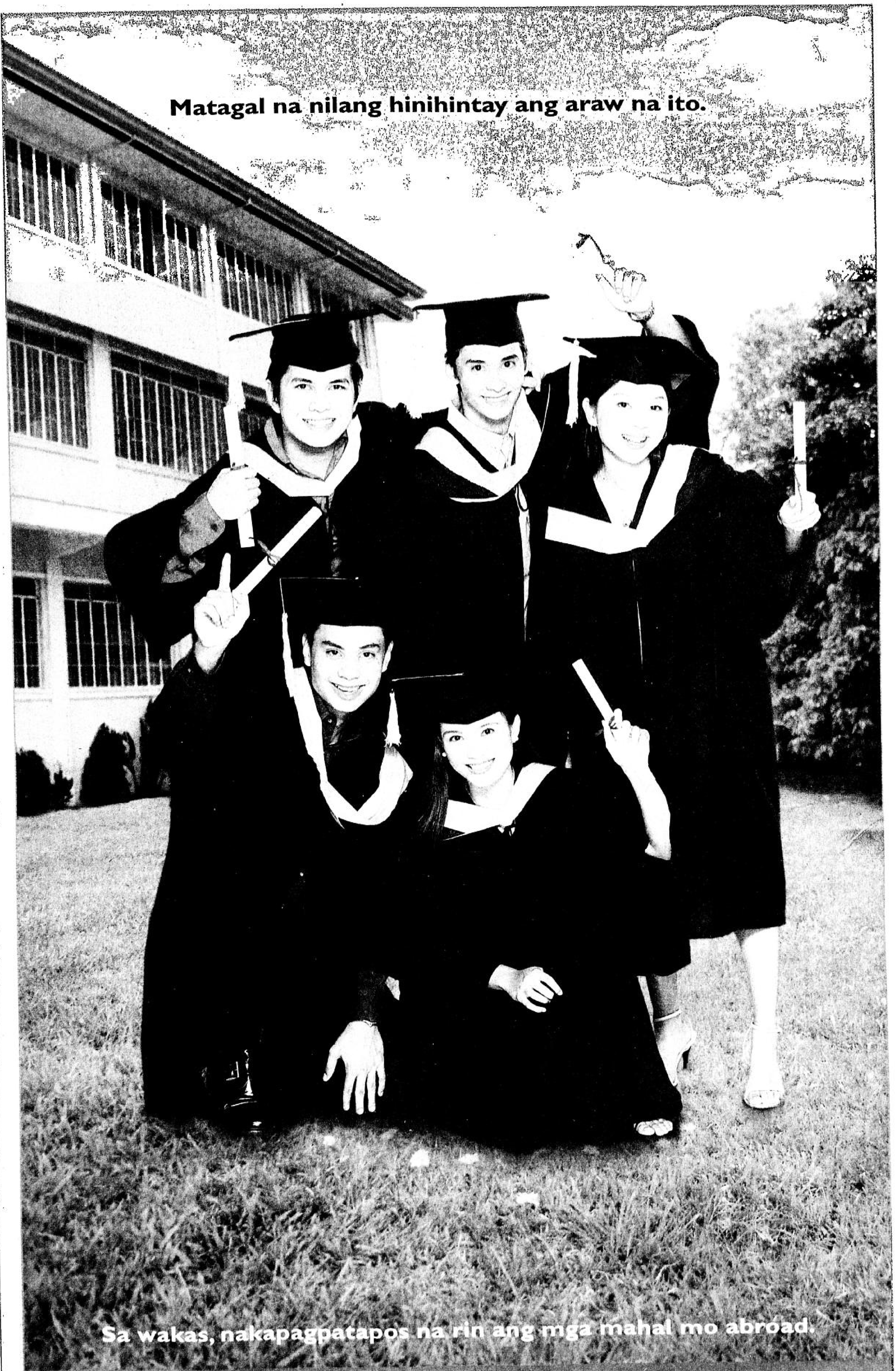
"They accuse me of making money out of the grotto. That's not true," Marietta said.

Marietta showed her latest bill for the security services for the grotto: It was more than P240,000.

Holy Week inside the grotto was the same inside Roman Catholic Churches. There were two guest priests presiding Masses.

But Legaspi said the diocese had not authorized any priest to perform the sacraments in the grotto until now.

If there are priests there, it is either they are holding masses without permission, or they have been suspended, Legaspi added.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GOLF: LPGA SBS Open; 6 p.m.; ESPN—See J-Ro capture her second LPGA title.
BASKETBALL: US NCAA—Georgia Tech vs Wake Forest; 8 a.m. (r- 9:30 p.m.); Pittsburgh vs Boston College; 10 a.m. (r); Big Ten Wildcard Game; 6 p.m. (r); ESPN—Witness college basketball at its finest.
NBA—Lakers vs Celtics; 8:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m); Solar Sports—LA and Boston renew their storied rivalry.
BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up; 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. (r); STAR Sports—"The Magician" Efren Reyes tries to conquer Jim Rempe and Earl Strickland, respectively.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Pacquiao eyes July ring return

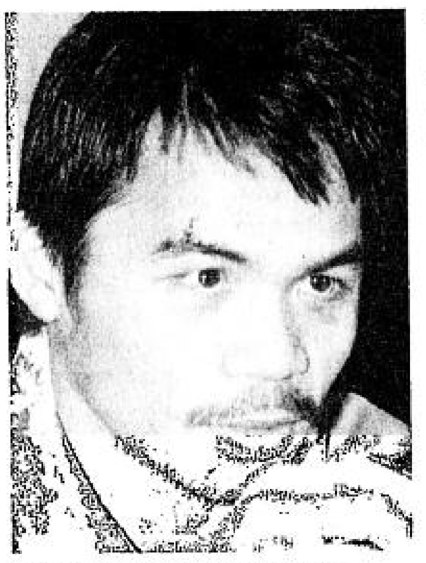
MANNY Pacquiao will return to the ring in July against a yet to be named opponent hoping to use the fight as tune-up for his rematch with Mexican Erik Morales.

The Filipino ring idol spoke of his future plans after arriving from the United States early yesterday morning with wife Jinkee and cornermen Lito Mondejar and Buboy Fernandez.

Pacquiao suffered a deep cut over his right eye in the fifth round and eventually lost by unanimous decision to Morales in their celebrated junior lightweight showdown in Las Vegas last Sunday.

The 26-year-old Pacquiao, who kept the tag as the world's best featherweight by Ring Magazine despite the loss, said that he would prepare even harder for the rematch tentatively set on September.

He admitted he was not mentally prepared for the fight and failed to do what he showed in training under American Freddie Roach.


MANNY Pacquiao's wounds have already healed. RUDY ESPERAS

"I did not lose steam," Pacquiao said in Filipino. "I just don't know why I was not able to do what I did in training."

Pacquiao, who will now be handled by the respected American Shelley Finkel, also acknowledged the superiority of the Mexican, a two-time world champion, in their 12-round clash.

"Morales prepared hard, but when we meet again, it's going to be different," said Pacquiao, who will pay a courtesy call on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Galing Pilipino Movement awarded Pacquiao the GPM's I-Gilas Citation No. 4300 after his arrival for inspiring his countrymen and showing the world the quality of sportsmanship the fighter had.

The GPM was put up in July 2002 and is dedicated to recognizing the valiant deeds of the Filipino.

Smart also sent a message congratulating Pacquiao, a Smart endorser, saying that the telecommunications firm is "honored to welcome and salute Manny, a hero in our eyes."

"He has shown the world an example of Filipino character at its finest," the statement read.

Pacquiao will receive the Boxer of the Year accolade in the 2004 Elorde Banquet of Champions set March 30 at the Mandarin Hotel in Makati.

Pilipino Movement
Galing
FILIPINO ring idol Manny Pacquiao receives a plaque from Galing Pilipino Movement president Erly de Guzman and executive secretary Eduardo Ermita upon his arrival yesterday.

PBL: Magnolia hopes to rebound

FOR MAGNOLIA Dairy Ice Cream, the PBL Open Championship was a huge disappointment.

The Wizards started off well enough that they appeared headed for back-to-back championships only to end up third behind Montana Pawnshop and Welcoat Paints.

This time, expect the Wizards to weave their magic once again and hopefully make the season-opening tournament—the 2005 PBL Unity Cup—another conference to remember.

With only one rookie in their lineup, the Wizards are expected to make another serious run at the title.

Of course, with all its talent and experience, Magnolia is always a title contender.

The Wizards will lean heavily on the 6-foot-4 Arwind Santos who is one of the most dependable players in

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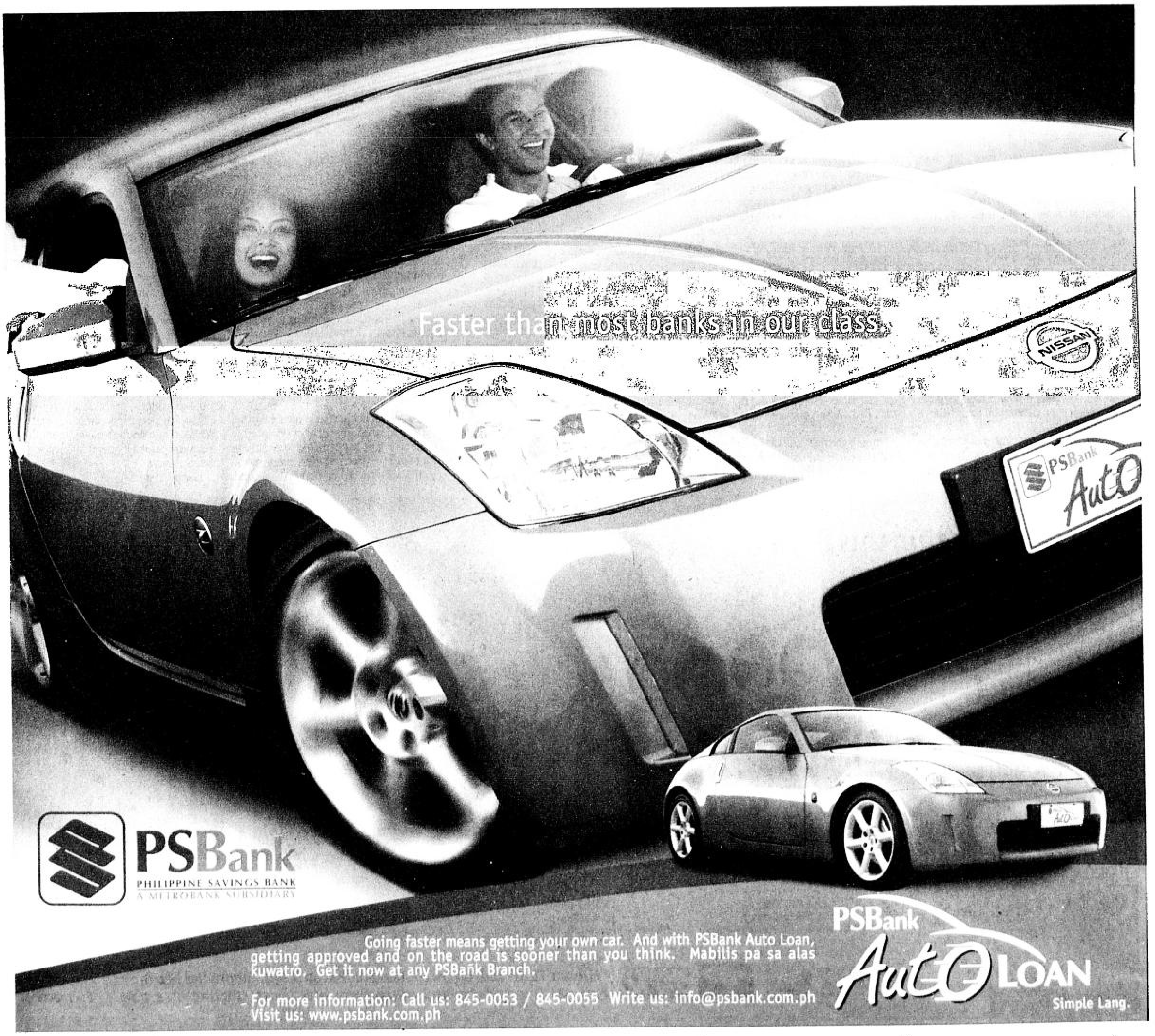
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JAYVIE Agojo ranks among the favorites of the Sta. Elena Cup. PDI PHOTO

9th Sta. Elena Cup kicks off Thursday

COMING off the Holy Week break, participants are expected to spend the next four days getting acquainted with the playing conditions as the countdown begins for the ninth staging of the Sta. Elena Cup member-guest invitational tournament starting this Thursday.

Among the entries are Abe Rosal, who shot the lowest ever round in Sta. Elena Cup history last year of eight-under-par 64, reigning Philippine Ladies Open champion Jayvie Agojo and former national seniors titlist Iggy Clavecilla.

The host club has allowed practice rounds as early as last week up to Wednesday morning. Tuesday is also the pre-tournament cocktails where the first package of prizes will be given away topped by an Omega watch.

Omega is one of just five major sponsors of the tourney that also includes Globe Platinum, Royal Caribbean International, The Golf Shop at Baron Travel, Mizuno and Toyota Motors Philippines Inc. (TMPI).

Sta. Elena is once more showcasing the golf course that has long been regarded as one of the best in Asia and an F&B team ranked next to none in the local scene. When the grand awarding party is held on Sunday, April 3, the clubs' two top Singaporean chefs, Joseph Goh and Eric Ng, will treat members and guests to a show cooking under an Oriental motif while the popular band Hyperbeat provides entertainment.

Upon registration, each participant will be receiving a Mizuno T-Blue putter as a giveaway to mark the local release of the newest putter out of the market.

If any of the 440 golfers registered gets lucky, he/she will be driving home either a Toyota Innova or any of the carts from Kart Plaza/Yamaha and Club Car, which are prizes for aces.

Omega is raffling off nine watches while Royal Caribbean and The Golf Shop at Baron Travel are giving away an all-expense paid Mexican Riviera Cruise for two. Other raffle items are Mizuno equipment, iPods and other premium gadgets worth almost a million pesos.

ABC Champion's Cup tops BAP sked

THE BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines has lined up several activities and events for the year to prepare national squads vying in separate international events.

The centerpiece event in the BAP calendar is the Fiba-ABC Champion's Cup, where the all-star squad made up of Philippine Basketball Association players will see action.

It is tentatively set for May 29 to June 5 at the Araneta Coliseum with teams from Korea, Iran, Syria, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Malaysia, Chinese-Taipei and Japan participating.

The event will allow coach Chot Reyes to truly gauge the strength of the team the BAP and the PBA have put up primarily for the Asian Games and the ABC Championships for the Olympics in Beijing in 2008.

The BAP will also organize the Asian University championship in Dumaguete in June with the top three finishers in the National Students' Championship representing the country in the tourney.

For the Southeast Asian Games, BAP has again tapped Boysie Zamar to call the shots for the RP five that will try to win the gold medal for the eighth straight time.

PGMA race slated Sunday

THE PGMA Cup and another P1-million race honoring the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia highlight a busy schedule at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite, next weekend.

Both races will be run next Sunday with the classic honoring President Macapagal-Arroyo limited to horses 4 years old and above.

The Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Cup, meanwhile, will have the finest 3-year-olds in action.

Both races offer P600,000 to the winner. The P450,000 Philracom-sponsored Inter-Parliamentary Union Cup, which will be run to salute delegates to the 112th assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union from 140 countries around the world, serves as appetizer on Saturday.

No less than Her Excellency PGMA has been invited to grace the Sunday calendar together with Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mohammed Ameen Wali to represent the Crown Prince.

The race will hopefully strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the Philippines and Saudi Arabia, according to Wali.

Senate president Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose de Venecia have also been invited together with other government officials and cabinet secretaries.

The sponsoring Petron and Saudi Arabian Airlines will be represented by president D. Khalid Al Faddah and Alo Almowalled, respectively.

The top gallopers led by Cover Girl and Empire King are expected to lead the roster of entries.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Heart of the Wind 2. Play It Again 3. Great Year 4. Morning Glory 5. Fastteller
Race 2—1. Magic Dancer 2. Sir Henry/Mister Cool 3. Vallente 4. Overture
Race 3—1. Unang Apo 2. El Love Señora 3. Queen's Gold 4. Love and Money 5. Sincerity 6. Secret Agent
Race 4—1. Khan Caloo/Hyperbid 2. Mighty Mare 3. Cebuana Spell
Race 5—1. Noor 2. Apex 3. Malone 4. Aya's Star 5. Calvin's Magic 6. Cause of Our Joy
Race 6—1. Successful Dream 2. Windlass 3. Silver Rose
Race 7—1. Ghurka 2. Toril 3. Tres Jeune 4. Angie Gray 5. Smile of the Wind 6. Cat's Jewel
Race 8—1. Throttle 2. Master Ilhay 3. Jacklyn Star 4. Master Dancer
Race 9—1. Moab 2. Thywillbedone 3. Hazmagic 4. Cat's Gold 5. King's Choice
Race 10—1. Divine Right 2. Ocean Dignity 3. Storm Princess 4. Foxy's Girl 5. Money in Motion
Race 11—1. Order of Merit 2. Hit the Wire 3. Miltied Forever 4. Guest House 5. Extreme Magic
Race 12—1. Queen Josephine 2. Amazing Firenze 3. Bold Lucky 4. Vice Free 5. Time Enchanted 6. Southern Prince

SPORTSWATCH

Madrigal shows racing promise

VICTORIA "Tori" Madrigal of Alessandra Racing showed big signs of promise like her phenomenal racing whiz sister, Alessandra, with her impressive feat in the kickoff of the 2005 Shell Superkarting Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. The 7-year-old Tori, backed by ING bank, Globe Gizmo, Dickies and Petron, made waves finishing third in the Cadet 60 Novice class against 16 others in the male-dominated field. She finished the 15-lap race in 18:38.491, clocking a fastest laptime of 56.984 seconds. While sister Alessandra is off to Thailand for practice runs in preparation for the Puma 80 class of the second round of the Thailand National Series today (March 27), Tori will see action anew when the 2005 Shell Superkarting Series stages its second leg on April 2-3 at the Boomland Kart Trak of the CCP Complex.

TORI (left) with Alessandra.

6th Filcobra derby slated

THE SIXTH Filipino Cockers and Breeders Association (Filcobra) 4-cock derby fires off Wednesday at the Roligon mega cockpit. Edmund Yasay, Richard Ramos and Dante Eslabon host the event, even as the P1-million Filcobra Grand Championship 5-cocker will be held April 11, 13 and 16. Meanwhile, the 501 Fastest Kill One-Cock Ulutan is set April 2, with a guaranteed prize of P501,000 up for grabs, and entry fee of only P2,200. For inquiries, contact 8332275, 8331638 and 8529812.

Hechanova scores sixth ace

JERIC Hechanova scored another hole-in-one at the Manila Southwoods where he is the director of golf, acing No. 7 of the Legends course last March 13. The ace fashioned with a Titleist 804OS 7-iron and a ProV1X No. 2 ball was his fourth in the golf complex and sixth in his career. His enviable record of golf's impossible shots also includes an albatross or double-eagle on the 15th hole of Sherwood Hills. With him when he made the ace were Wally Cervantes of Baron Travel/Golf Shop and Korean Airlines executives Byung Kwon Choi and Toti Cosico.

Fistorama features two fights

TWO EXCITING fights in the bantam and super-lightweight divisions will be featured in Samsung's "Fistorama" today on RPN 9 at 4 p.m. Monico Laurente clashes with Jonathan Lobo over six rounds at 118 lb, while rated sluggers Melgasar Regatona and Nonoy Gonzales square off in a 140-lb fight over 10 rounds. The show is being aired three times a week in the US, Europe, Middle East, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong and other parts of the world through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel. The longest-running local sports program, Golf Power, precedes the boxing portion at 3 p.m.

SONIA Trading manager Anil Buxani (second from left) turns over the Molten GL7 basketball to NBC secretary general Tito Palma. Molten will be the official ball of the coming NBA season. Also in picture are sales manager Carol Bonifacio (left) and NBC north operations head Michelle Gaano.

The egg

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE EGG is breakfast itself. To many among us, breakfast without it is almost a no-no.

Like almost everybody from Laoag to Legazpi, athletes begin their day with eggs. Meaning, they eat eggs every morning. Done boiled, scrambled, omelet, fried sunny side up or nice 'n easy.

Name me an athlete who doesn't begin his day with eggs and I'll tell you what kind of an athlete he is. Either that athlete is too poor he cannot afford eggs in the morning, or he is allergic to eggs. Either way, he might not be cut to become an athlete.

Egg is unhealthy, you say?

Not to athletes.

An acknowledged power food, egg has always been considered vital to the diet of every athlete.

Boxers, like Manny Pacquiao, indulge in it just hours before a big fight. They usually eat them fresh from the shell. Some, like two-time world champion Luisito Espinosa, eat them raw with a dash of salt.

Not too long ago, the world weightlifting champion said egg was his secret to success. He said he ate two dozens of eggs every morning, whether in training or not. Sunny side up. He said that made him strong as an ox.

Many doctors say too much egg is bad for the health. But other doctors insist an egg every morning is good for the health.

Don't be confused, fellas.

In these times when almost everybody has a say to any thing, every thing, it is well to trust your own instinct, if not listen to your body.

Not bad to hear what your doctor tells you each time you make a visit.

It's bad when you listen to every word he says.

When I got this bad case of gout more than 10 years ago, I felt I'd starve to death after hearing the doctor say I couldn't eat this, I couldn't eat that.

In effect, what he had practically prescribed as the only safe food for me was water.

Of course, I heard him. But I never listened to every word he said.

All the no-no in his new diet for me, I ate them all. The secret is not actually a secret but I'll tell it to you anyways: I ate a little of everything. Still do.

He also prescribed an abstinence of drinks.

I disobeyed him, too. Again, the trick is, a drop of everything.

God gave you this and that to enjoy, take a little of this and that and then give praise to God.

And what is a little of this and that?

Depends.

Alvin Patrimonio, I love to tell growing kids, loves to drink a pitcher of milk every morning. Is that considered a little of everything?

You might say no, but not to Alvin Patrimonio.

What is a little of everything to you may not necessarily mean a little of everything to others.

Alvin Patrimonio, one of only two four-time MVPs in the PBA (the first was Ramon Fernandez), has had that habit since he was a kid.

I say Alvin's habit should not be considered an excess, too much of everything.

Like the world champion weightlifter who ate two dozens of eggs every morning, the milk habit has done Alvin good, and he ought to be left alone for that.

But back to the egg.

Kids will have fun hunting eggs today, Easter Sunday (celebration of life), in keeping with traditions of Christianity.

While egg is life itself, it also symbolizes freedom and liberty.

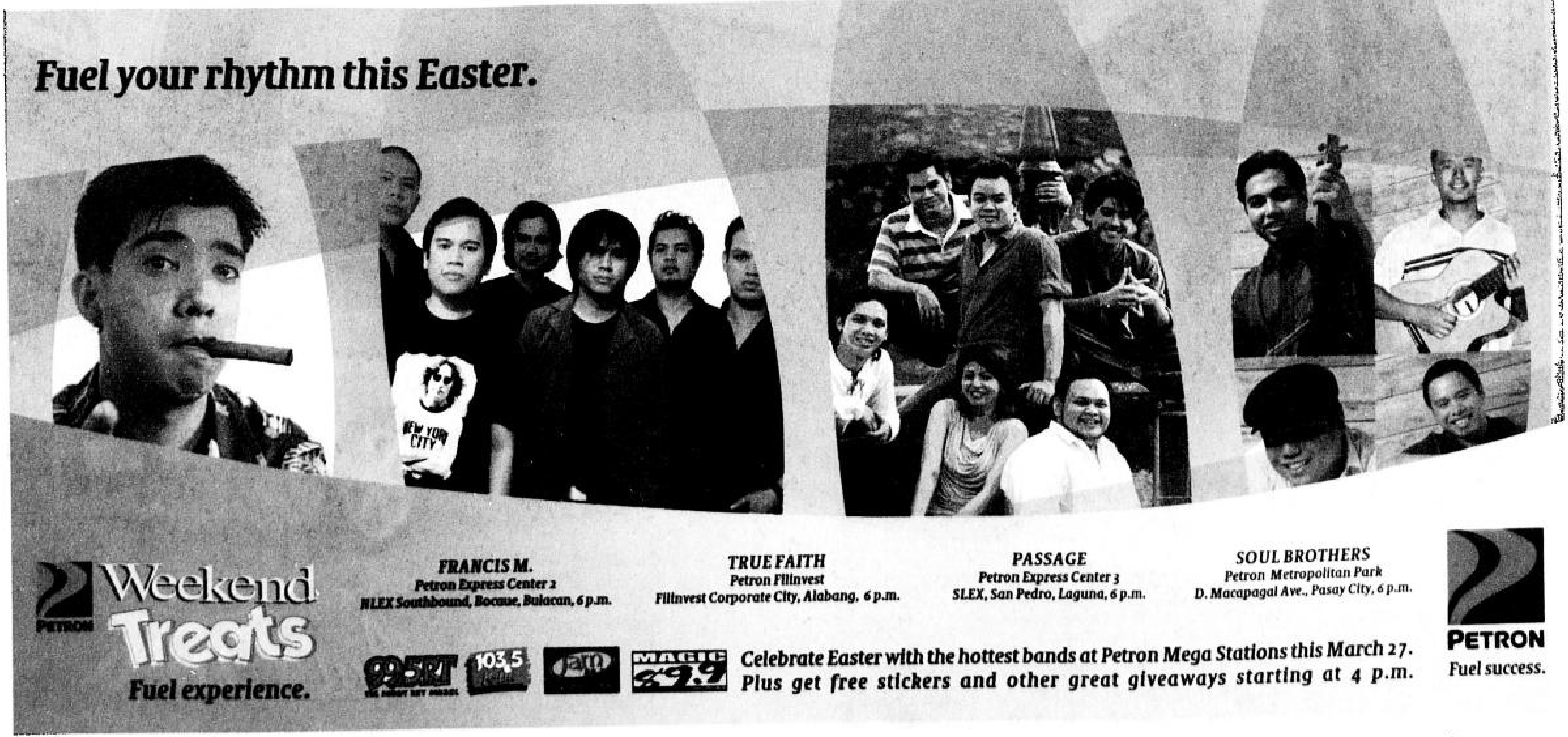
The chick emerging from, struggling out of, an eggshell is symbolic of liberation, ascension even, or resurrection if you will—as in Jesus Christ getting Himself resurrected today.

It is liberation because the eggshell is prison itself.

How many among us today would dare reflect on our own freedom, resurrection?

From hereon if need be, it would do us and our athletes well not to just treat the egg as a mere component of our daily diet. While it is no doubt a power food, the egg has more power, if not joyful mystery, than meets the eye.

Happy Easter!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SOUL BROTHERS
Petron Metropolitan Park
D. Macapagal Ave., Pasay City, 6 p.m.

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Twin RP title fights set in Mandaue tomorrow

By Salven Lagumbay, *Contributor*

PHILIPPINE bantamweight champion Joel Bauya and minimumweight titlist Elmer Gejon will put their respective crowns on the block tomorrow at the New Gallera de Mandaue in Cebu.

Bauya will stake his title against an old rival, ex-World Boxing Council International bantam king Roger Galicia, while Gejon will try to retain his crown over top challenger Carlo Besdares of Kidapawan City.

The official weigh-in for all protagonists of the card dubbed "War at the Gallera" is scheduled today at the Wakee Salud Boxing Gym in Labangon, Cebu City.

Aside from the double championship, promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud said some 30 rounds of top-caliber fights are in the undercard of this first ever boxing event to be held at the 4,000-capacity Gallera.

"We assure fight fans of their money's worth," said Salud. "This is the first time we're holding a boxing event in this new sports center, and definitely this is not the last. We expect great fights in the mold of the recent (Manny) Pacquiao-(Erik) Morales clash."

Bauya and Galicia, both battle-scarred ringsters, are taking their old rivalry in front of discriminating Cebu fans.

Bauya, who trains at the L&M Gym, is out to prove that the erstwhile Mandaluyong standout Galicia, who now trains in Cebu, won't be able to keep up with his pace in their 12-round clash.

"Bauya has been training since January," said Bauya's trainer, Emil Romano, in Filipino when he arrived in Cebu the other day. "He's more than ready for this fight,"

Other bouts pit JR Sollano against Ricky Gozo; Alex Aroy versus Michael Rodriguez; Charles Delada against Jerry Lota; Apol Suico versus Manny Pacquoan, and Jomar Matbagon versus Alvin Mundala.

Pasi draws 120 golfers

A MAXIMUM field of 120 players will be disputing team and individual honors in the Philippine Association of Supermarket Inc. (Pasi) Invitational golf tournament set on Thursday, March 31, at Wack Wack west.

They will be representing a total of 40 teams which will be classified according to the non-food and food sectors of an inaugural tourney being organized to foster camaraderie in the retail industry.

San Miguel Corp. and Coca-Cola Bottlers Inc. are supporting the event as major sponsors.

The other backers are Selecta, Nestlé Ice Cream, Unilever, Purefoods Hormel, Selecta, Sara Lee Phils., McKenzie Distribution, SC Johnson & Son, New Zealand Milk Phils., Marina Inc. and Gardenia Phils. Inc.

Interested participants only have until tomorrow to register. Tournament fee is P12,000 per three-man team inclusive of green fees, script money, giveaways, buffet dinner, raffle ticket and the minimum caddie fee of P500. For inquiries, call Ruth Reyes at 3628349.

W'chair league slated

THE JCI Philippines-Manila (Manila Jaycees), will launch the 7th annual Wheelchair Basketball League tomorrow in partnership with the Philippine Sports Association of the Differently-Abled.

Nine teams will see action in the tourney set at 9 a.m.

Various sports clinics will be conducted by six-time Paralympic world champion Errol Marklein of Germany during the event sponsored by Philamlife Insurance and Victoria Spring Purified Drinking Water.

The Philippine Sports Commission will select players from the winning teams to represent the country in the Wheelchair and Friendship Center of Asia basketball friendship games in Nagoya, Japan, on May 27 and the Asean Para Games in Manila in December.

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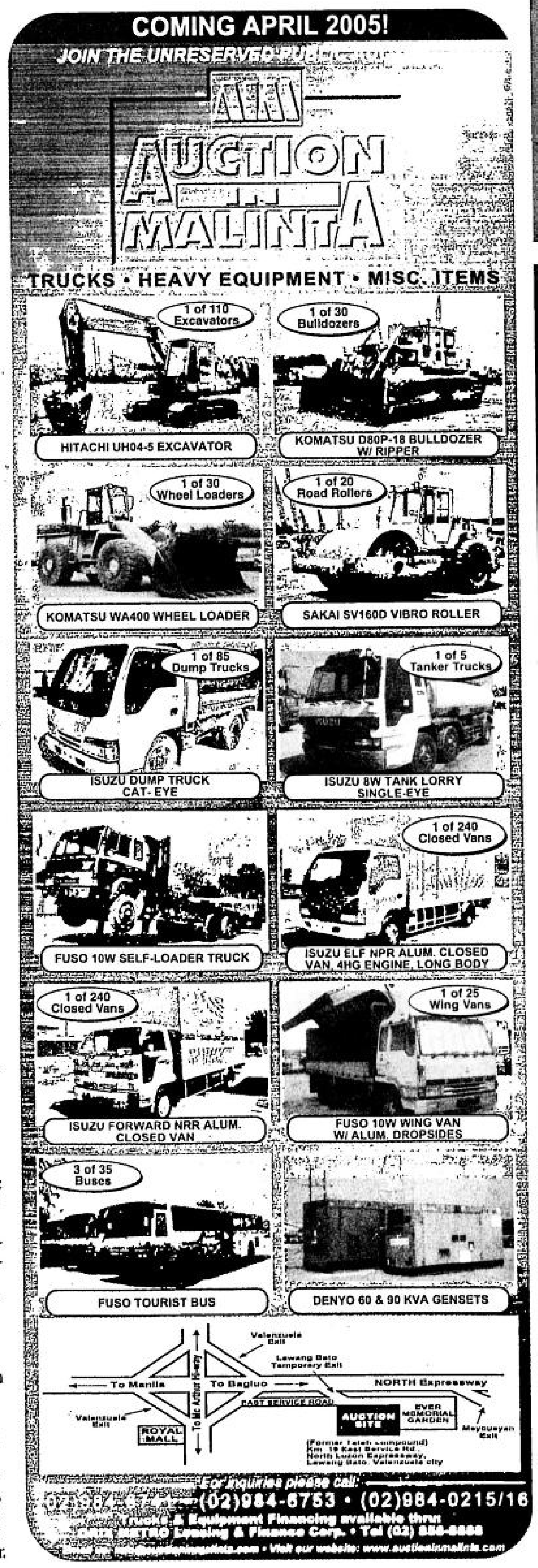
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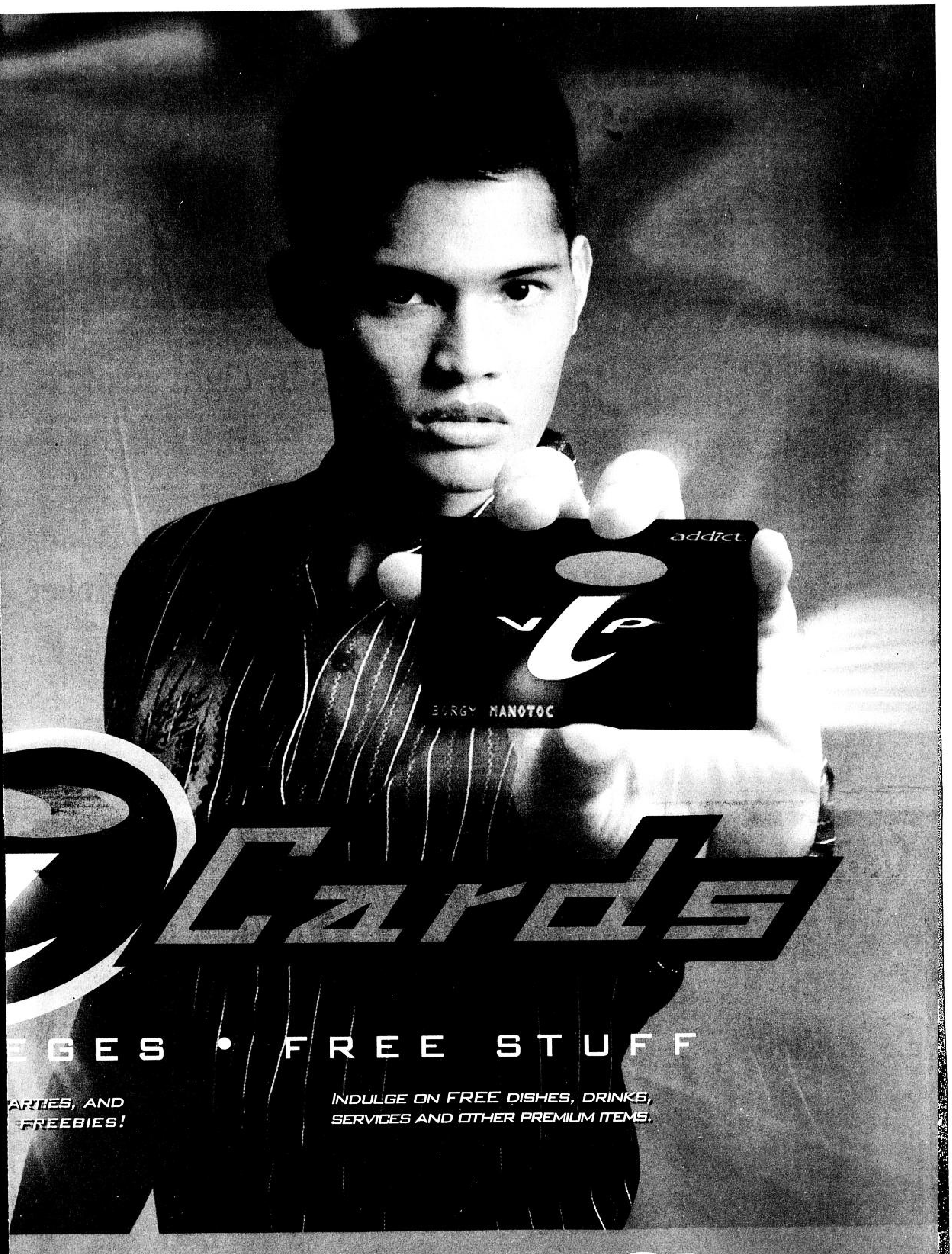

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Annika grabs share of lead

RANCHO—Annika Sorenstam is comfortable with her game, which means everyone else at the Nabisco Championship is probably playing for second place.

The most dominant player in golf shot a 3-under 69 Friday to move into a tie for the lead with 45-year-old Rosie Jones after two rounds of the first LPGA major of the year. Sorenstam did it in her typical fashion, playing with methodical consistency on a day when other players couldn't help but make mistakes.

Sorenstam, trying to win her fifth tournament in a row, overcame a bogey on the first hole by playing the last 12 holes in 4 under to post her score early, before the wind stiffened and scores began inching upward on the Mission Hills Country Club course.

She had the lead to herself until Jones, playing in one of the last groups of the day, birdied the 18th hole to tie her at 5-under 139.

"I'm desperate," said Jones, who is retiring at the end of this season and has never won a major title. "I want to win a major as bad as Annika wants to win her fifth in a row. She'll have other chances, I've got a lot more riding on it."

Fil-American Dorothy Delasin remained in contention at 143 after a 72 but Jennifer Rosales soared to a 79 and found herself out of it at 150, although she still survived the 36-hole cut of 154.

Teenage phenom Michelle Wie was one of the day's casualties, hitting it out of bounds into someone's backyard on the 16th hole for one of two double bogeys on her way to a 74 that left her at even par, five shots back.

"Today my bad shots were just horrible," Wie said.

First round co-leader Mi-Hyun Kim was of South Korea in third, a stroke back, while compatriot and defending champion Grace Park and Reilley Rankin were another shot behind after shooting 68s, the low rounds of the day.

Sorenstam has a lot at stake in the season's first major. She's already won twice this year and is trying to win her fifth tournament in a row over two years to tie a 1978 record set by Nancy Lopez.

More importantly, she needs to win the first major to keep alive her goal of winning all four major championships in one year. *AP*

THE PHILIPPINES' Jennifer Rosales, after being under the weather lately, struggled in the LPGA's first major of the season, one which Annika Sorenstam (inset) threatens to dominate. Rosales, a Smart endorser, shot a 79 and trails by 11 shots.

PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Rain leaves course unplayable again

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida—The second round of The Players Championship lasted 44 minutes before rain saturated the Stadium Course and left half the fairways unplayable on Friday.

Nearly seven hours later, officials had no choice but to send players home until Saturday and figure out what to do next.

This was the seventh time in 13 tournaments that weather halted play during a round, and it was the second straight week that Mother Nature had thrown a US PGA Tour event into chaos. The first round of the Bay Hill Invitational was washed out after three hours, creating three marathon days until a Sunday finish.

Golf's fifth major might not be that lucky.

The forecast includes thunderstorms the rest of the week, and Russell wouldn't rule out anything—a 54-hole tournament for the first time in the 31-year history of The Players Championship, maybe even the first Tuesday finish on the US PGA Tour in 25 years.

Still undecided was whether the second round would resume at 7 a.m. (1200 GMT), or if it would start over. The 30 players on the course were not allowed to lift, clean and place their balls in the fairway. That means the entire second round would have to be played under those terms, even if balls were coated with mud. The only other option is to start over.

That would be welcome news for Ernie Els.

The Big Easy provided the usual dose of craziness for such a short day of work. He hit his opening tee shot so far to the right that it nearly landed in the caddie's parking lot. He blasted off pine straw back toward the fairway, and it took one bounce and struck Lee Janzen in the right hip.

Asked if he had ever been hit on the US PGA Tour, Janzen replied, "And it wasn't an amateur?" *AP*

MIÑOZA

Miñoza trails by eight strokes

JAKARTA—Frankie Miñoza, trying to keep up with the high-scoring field for the second straight week, shot another three-under-par 67 Saturday and beat the halfway cut by three strokes in the $1 million Enjoy Jakarta Standard Chartered Indonesia Open.

At six-under-par 134 after 36 holes, the No. 1 Filipino shotmaker stood in an eight-way for 25th place, eight strokes behind Thailand's Thaworn Wiratchant, who kept the solo lead by scoring another 63 Friday.

Miñoza, who tied for 29th in the TCL Open in China, last week, is actually two shots ahead of the tournament's top draw, Colin Montgomerie of Scotland, who completed his second round in 69.

Ranked 54th, Montgomerie needs explosive rounds in the last two days to break into the top-50 in the world ranking and earn a US Masters invitation.

A total of 64 players returned Saturday morning to finish their second rounds at the par-70 Cengkareng Golf Club but another weather interruption was expected early in the afternoon.

The halfway cut was pegged at three-under 137 which Irishman Paul McGinley barely matched. A total of 79 players qualified for the last two rounds.

Missing the cut for the second straight week was Filipino Angelo Que, who rallied with a 68 to no avail. With his opening 72, Que wound up with a 140 total.

Cassius Casas, the third Filipino starter, withdrew after shooting a 71 Friday.

All set for Ateneo-La Salle dual golf meet

IT'S A giant facility for a showdown of giants as the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club hosts for the second straight year the Ateneo-La Salle dual meet presented by PLDT and Smart on Monday, April 4.

The more than 700 participants will be playing the Dye, Faldo and Norman courses, three of the four championship layouts at Eagle Ridge. The Aoki course has been reserved for members and other walk-in guests not eligible to join.

The Ateneo-La Salle dual meet will now just take one day instead of three because of the Eagle's 72-hole facility in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

At stake in the tourney is The Classic Cup which replaces the Ambassador Carlos J. Valdes Trophy. La Salle now owns the Valdes Trophy after winning from 2001 to 2004.

International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI), OOCL (Philippines) Inc., Johnny Air Cargo are the premier sponsors while American Express, Cost U Less, Eagle Express, EPCIB, Institute Saintre, Manila Bank, Salonpas and Transcom are special sponsors.

Players in championship and Class A will be assigned to the Dye course, Class B and Class C the Faldo course and the Class D, ladies and the Open class (those without certified handicaps) the Norman course. Tee-off starts at 7 a.m. Scheduled on Friday, April 1 is a separate seniors competition for players 60 years and above at the Alabang Country Club.

For inquiries, please call the alumni affairs offices, 426-6081 for Ateneo and 523-6158/526-5612 for La Salle. Deadline for registration is on Tuesday, March 29.

Players can also look forward to special prizes and giveaways never before seen in the whole history of the event courtesy of PLDT and Smart.

Each participant will receive complimentary golf clinic and instructional DVDs by Smart endorser Jennifer Rosales and customized SIM designs and numbers.

Ateneo Golf Foundation head Iggy Clavecilla and La Salle alumni president Lito Tanjuatco both lauded the support of PLDT and Smart for the tourney which will also bankroll golf scholarships for each school this coming school year.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, March 27, 2005

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		SCQ Reload		The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		TV Patrol World	Wansapanataym		Sunday Family Cinema			
NBN		Value Vision		Kabataan News Network	Family Rosary Crusade	Concert at the Park		Kamao		Family Rosary Crusade	The Working President	Battle Of Royale		To Be Announced					Unlimited Diving
ABC 5		Ringside		PBA										Viva Cine Idols				ABC Onstage	
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love			S-Files				Naks	Mel & Joey Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office				
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		Road Trip	Simple Life	Smackdown		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami						The Working President	Ugnayan
IBC 13		Lifestyle		America Atbp.		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Retro TV	All Filipino Billiards Open					Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
Solar	The Sib Show	WWE Afterburn		WWE Smackdown				WWE Velocity		WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		Pride FC				Slamball	
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Tao Shu The Warrior Boy	Lat, The Kampung Boy	The Adventures Of Tenali Raman	1, 2, 3	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Hit Chart				Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Arrested Development	Committed	American Dreams		One Tree Hill		Queer Eye For The Straight Girl		Average Joe		Access Hollywood (Rated Oh!)		Nip/ Tuck		The Insider Weekend	ETW
Cinema One				The Sarah Balabagan Story				Kasangga Kahit Kailan				Extranghero				Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon			
Studio 23			Stoplight TV	BYK 101	Hotwire TV	Top Gear	Game Plan	Nganig The Hidden Files		Exposed		Two & A Half Men	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10:15PM)		Fastlane (11:15PM)	
AXN		The Big Hit				Global Adventure		Now See This		Maximum Exposure		Fear Factor		C.S.I.		Lost		The Contender	
Star World		Outback Jack		Miss Match		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Wild Card		Malcolm In The Middle	The Kumars At No. 42	Oprah Prime Time		Parkinson		Absolutely Fabulous	Absolutely Fabulous	Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Prime Time
CNN	Design 360	World News	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart: Global Edition	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	CNN Presents: A Rising Tide: The Threat Of Global Warming		World News	MainSail	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart: Global Edition	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveller	Talk Asia	World Sport
National Geographic		Interpol Investigates		Samsung Best Of The Week		Human Edge	Crittercam Wildtech Adventure	Science Times		Air Crash Investigation		Megastructures		Seconds From Disaster		Interpol Investigates		Samsung Best Of The Week	
Solar Sports			Davis Cup '05 France vs. Sweden 1st Rd.									NBA Jam L918	GWS Ep.12-2005	NBA Game Boston @ Detroit					NBA Inside Stuff
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America W/ Mario Batali	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special						Planet Parent	You're Invited
HBO			Dead Calm			I Love You To Death			The Wild Thornberry's Movie			The Big One 2 Fast 2 Furious			The Rundown (9:45PM)				Empire (11:25PM)
Star Movies	Spartacus			Drumline				The Prophecy			Liar Liar			A Guy Thing			Just A Kiss (10:45PM)		
Cartoon Network			Yogi's Ark Lark		Yogi & Magical Flight Of The Spruce Goose				Yogi The Easter Bear		What's New Scooby Doo?	The Looney Tunes Show		Cartoon Cartoon Show	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Duck Dodgers	Time Squad	Samurai Jack	Xiaolin Showdown
ESPN	2004 Spinvitational Table Tennis C'ships	Big 12 Basketball Tour, Texas Tch vs. Oklahoma St				Big 12 Basketball Tour Oklahoma St. vs Kansas				Big 12 Basketball Tour, Texas Tch vs. Oklahoma St		World Pool Masters '04 Ann Zoo, Holland		World Pool Trick Shot Masters '04					
Disney Channel		Untalkative Bunny	Lilo & Stitch		Untalkative Bunny	Martin Mystery/ That's So Raven/ Dave The Barbarian/Phil Of The Future				Untalkative Bunny	Toy Story			Dave The Barbarian	Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	That's So Raven	Land Before Time IV: Journey Through The Mists	
Cinemax	Grace Of My Heart				Darkman 3			Bad To The Bone			The Scorpion King			Clear And Present Danger					The Sum Of All Fears
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Hans Christian Andersen - The Fairytaler Cartoon	Hans Christian Andersen - The Fairytaler Cartoon	Hans Christian Andersen - The Fairytaler Cartoon	Hans Christian Andersen - The Fairytaler Cartoon	Cleopatra Part1				Cleopatra Part1				Betrayed			Wire In The Blood (10:35PM)		
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		American Chopper		Rides		Extreme Engineering		Hour Asia				Discovery Sunday				Power Zone	
MTV Philippines			Wildboyz	High School Stories	Boiling Point	Pimp My Ride	MTV U-Break	Harana	Making the Movie Be Cool	Faking the Video	I Want A Famous Face	Rich Girls	Newlyweds	MTV2 Game Guide	Making the Game Urbz- Sims in the City	J. Lopez & Co.		VH1 Video Collections	
Sports Plus			Italia Serie A				Inside the PGA	World Poker Tour Ep 10 Hollywood				NCAA Reg Finals Game2		Get A Grip		Toshiba Senior Classic Day2			
EWTN	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Angelus (3:15PM)	Pope Pius XII	Children's Rosary	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Octavia Dias	EWTN Bookmark	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	EWTN Global Showcase		The Way To Follow Jesus	St. Matthew	Sunday Mass			Life Is Worth Living	Mother Angelica Live Classics	

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Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
TUWING HUWEBES pagkatapos ng American Idol
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

DWYANE Wade soars high for the Heat. REUTERS

Sixers, Heat clip rivals

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson hit a 4.5-meter (15-foot) jump shot Friday with 2.4 seconds left to cap a 36-point performance and give the Philadelphia 76ers a 103-101 victory over the Toronto Raptors.

Iverson was 11-of-23 from the field and 12-of-12 from the freethrow line to help the 76ers improve to 34-34, the first time they've been at .500 since Feb. 14.

Chris Webber played his best all-around game with Philadelphia, finishing with 32 points, six rebounds and four assists. He was 15-of-25 from the field.

"He's helping us, not just with scoring the basketball," Iverson said of Webber. "He's passing the ball like I've never seen a big man pass it."

Donyell Marshall led the Raptors with 26 points, including seven 3-pointers, and Chris Bosh added 24 points and a career-high 22 rebounds.

"I really didn't know, I was just out there playing," Bosh said. "I was just focusing on rebounding the ball. I thought maybe I had like 14 or 15 [rebounds]. I didn't know I had [22]. But it would have been great to win. We were close."

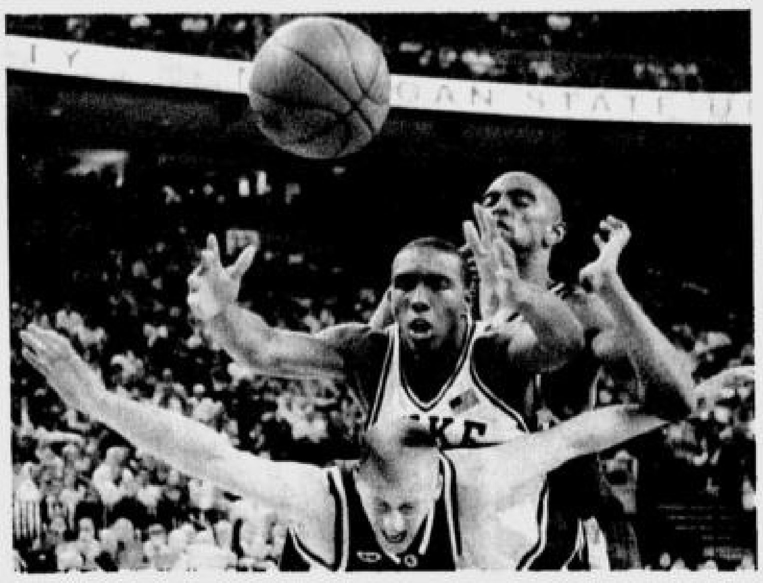
In other games, Miami defeated Phoenix, 125-115; Chicago iced Boston, 94-86; Indiana licked Detroit, 94-81; Houston creamed New Orleans, 81-68; San Antonio destroyed Atlanta, 111-95; Seattle frustrated New York in overtime, 109-101; Golden State nipped Milwaukee also in overtime, 118-117, and the Los Angeles Clippers tripped Washington, 98-84.

In Miami, Dwyane Wade had 35 points—including a 20-m (65-foot) heave to end the third quarter—and Miami beat Phoenix to clinch the Southeast Division title and move past the Suns for the NBA's best record.

Shaquille O'Neal had 12 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, and Eddie Jones added 23 to help Miami (53-17) set a season high for points. The Heat won their 16th straight home game to claim their first division title since 1999-2000.

Quentin Richardson led Phoenix (51-17) with 26 points, Amare Stoudemire added 25 and Steve Nash had 19 points and 14 assists. Phoenix lost for the first time in its last 10 road games.

In Boston, Eddy Curry scored 16 points, Tyson Chandler added 13 points and 10 rebounds and Chicago finished with a 14-4 run to beat Boston for its fourth straight win. *AP*



DUKE'S DeMarcus Nelson gets sandwiched by Michigan State's Crew Neitzel (front) and Alan Anderson. AP

US NCAA

Duke tumbles out

AUSTIN, Texas—Paul Davis scored 20 points and fifth-seeded Michigan State moved within a game of the Final Four with a 78-68 win Friday over top-seeded Duke in the US NCAA Austin Regional.

Alan Anderson added 17 points, and the Spartans (25-6) sent wave after wave of defenders out to the perimeter to bottle up J.J. Redick, holding the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year to 13 points.

Michigan State will face Kentucky on Sunday in the Austin Regional final.

Davis provided the muscle in the middle late to give Michigan coach Tom Izzo his first win over Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski in five tries—including a loss in the Final Four in 1999, the year before the Spartans won the national championship.

The loss ended Krzyzewski's bid for an 11th Final Four with Duke (27-6).

Like most of their season, the Blue Devils had their "Big Three" of Redick, Daniel Ewing and Shelden Williams but little else when it counted against the Spartans, who substituted early and often in an effort to wear them down.

Williams scored 19 points, but fouled out with 2:41 left and Duke trailing by five. *AP*

Injured Roddick ousted

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida—Defending champion Andy Roddick lost his opening match at the Nasdaq-100 Open when a sprained right wrist forced him to retire while trailing Fernando Verdasco, 7-6 (9), 4-3, on Friday.

Meanwhile, women's second-round winners included defending champion Serena Williams, three-time Grand Slam champ Justine Henin-Hardenne, who played her first match in six months, three-time Key Biscayne champ Venus Williams, and second-seeded Maria Sharapova.

Henin-Hardenne, sidelined since the US Open by a virus and knee injury, beat Abigail Spears of the United States, 6-4, 6-3.

Third-seeded Serena Williams opened her bid for a fourth consecutive title by beating Vera Douchevina, 6-3, 6-0. Venus Williams took just 50 minutes to beat Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany, 6-2, 6-0. Sharapova lost only eight points in the opening set and beat Eleni Daniilidou of Greece, 6-0, 6-4. *AP*

PBL. . .

From page A25

the roster of coach Koy Banal.

Nothing much is heard about the team's reinforcement in Fil-American Ramsey Williams but according to a team insider, the 6-foot guard has a decent touch from beyond the arc.

Ramsey is a welcome addition to the team since Banal's reliable point-guard, the cat-quick Warren Ybañez, is no longer around after joining Red Bull in the pro league. He is expected to help Denok Miranda in plotting the team's offense.

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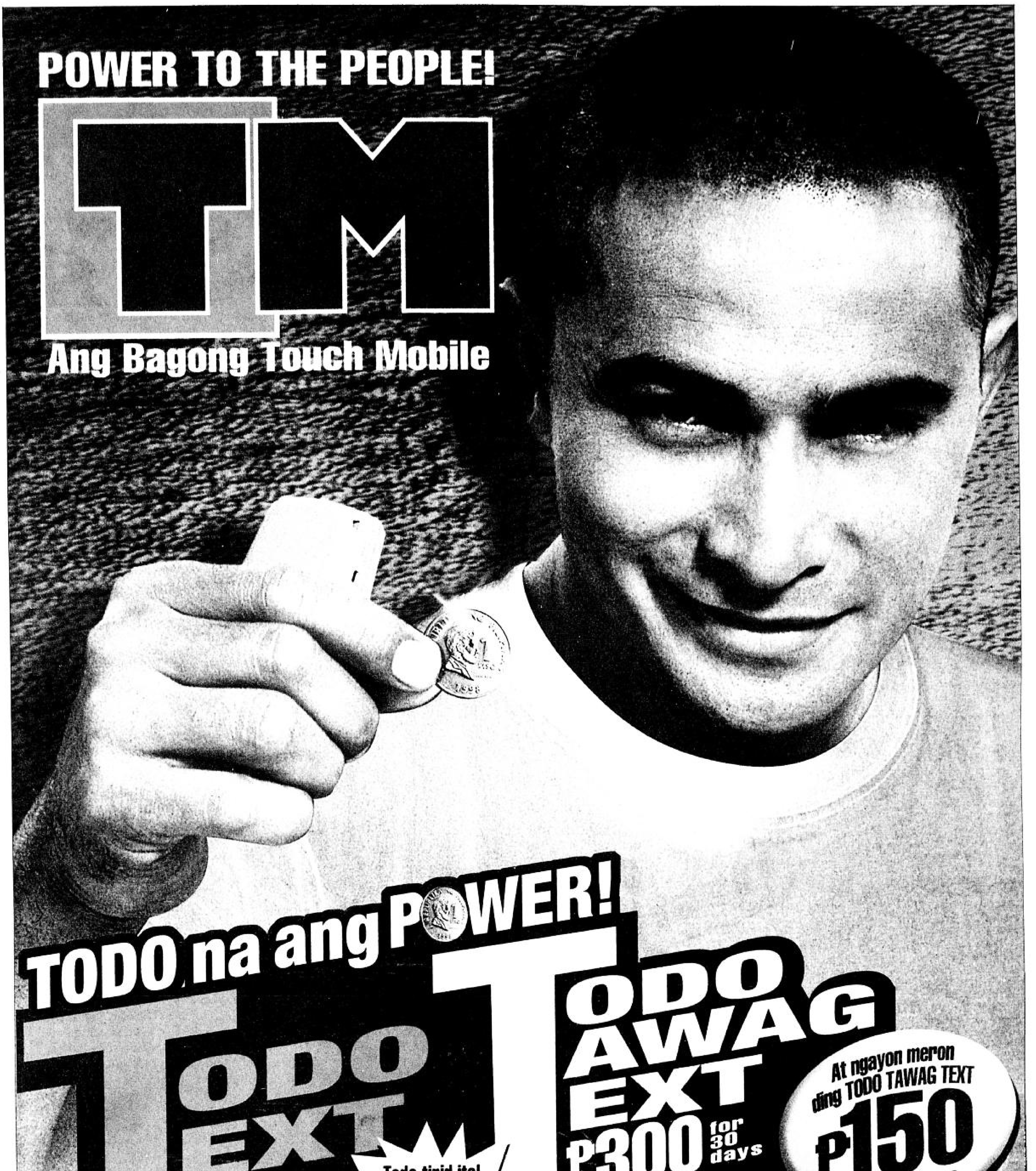
NORTH
• Tarlac, Tarlac • Capas, Tarlac • Carmen, Pangasinan • Mac Arthur Hi-way, Urdaneta Pangasinan (South Bound) • Mac Arthur Hi-way, Urdaneta Pangasinan (North Bound) • Alaminos, Pangasinan • Rosario, La Union • Chanum cor. Otek St., Burnham, Baguio • Agoo, La Union • Olongapo-Gapan Road, Guagua, Pampanga • Sta. Rita, Olongapo City, Olongapo • Maharlika Hi-way, Cabanatuan • Daan Sarile, Cabanatuan • Plaridel, Bulacan • Upper Session Road, Baguio • Angeles City • NFPC, R-10, Navotas



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- Pati mga SIM -Swappers, pwedeng sumali sa **TM Todo Tawag Text!**

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PER DTI [illegible] NO. 1159, SE[illegible]S OF 2005.

BILIS! HANGGANG APRIL 7, 2005 LANG.

LAKAS NG GLOBE

Global Battle of the Bands

Organizers urge Pinoy groups to compete

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

A TOP prize of $100,000 (about P5.4 million) awaits the winner of the forthcoming Global Battle of the Bands (GBOB), a worldwide competition that would surely interest all music-crazy Filipinos.

GBOB spokesman and former boy band member Christian Ingebrigtsen was recently in Manila, purposely to urge musicians of this talent-rich country to take a crack at the chance of a lifetime to bring their music on the global stage before an international audience.

As of this writing, bands from some 30 countries have signed up.

The contest will follow a three-step process. In the Philippines, there will be Local Qualifying Heats (including Regional Eliminations) and a National Finals Night. The winning band from these match-ups will represent the country in the World Finals.

Local Qualifying Heats are set in September to October; National Finals in October to November; World Finals in December.

The full set rules may be viewed and downloaded from the GBOB.com website, but these are the most basic:

*A band may have from two to 10 members.

*There is no age limit for band members.

*The band can either be signed or unsigned to management, publishing or record companies. GBOB Ltd will not ask them to sign any licenses or agreements, other than the right to use their name, image and music for promotional purposes.

*To formally enter the competition, the band must fill out the application form available on the website.

All-original

The beauty of this music contest is that, unlike any other "battle of the bands," all those who intend to join must play all-original compositions.

The GBOB was launched only last year. A band from Spain won the first World Finals, according to Christian. His best friend in his home country of Norway thought of putting such a huge event together.

"This is something like American Idol, live-band style, and all-original songs," Christian said.

Christian admitted having joined competitions, too, which he said gave him excellent training. He has been with all sorts of groups, the boy band A1 being the most recent. The Brit Awards (said to be the UK equivalent of the Grammys) voted A1 as Best British Newcomer in 2001. Columbia Records reportedly signed A1 to one of the biggest deals in the label's history.

To all prospective GBOB contestants, a word of advice from Christian: "Focus on getting your sound right. Get ready to write a great song. A good performance would wrap it up."

When asked what type of music the winning band from Spain performed last year, Christian replied, "They sounded like U2. The contest was actually dominated by rock-type bands."

In other words, *kayang-kaya ng Pinoy 'yan!*

(For inquiries and other details, log on to www.GBOB.com)

THE GLOBAL BATTLE

CHRISTIAN Ingebrigtsen at the recent Manila briefing

PHOTO COURTESY OF NOWRUNNING.COM

B'WOOD, H'WOOD Aishwarya Rai, Queen of Bollywood, is out to make the transition from Indian sensation to Hollywood star. The former Miss World was in California this week filming for her new movie, "Mistress of Spices," about a shop owner who heals with spices.

AP

Bert Marcelo Award for Ai Ai de las Alas

ACTRESS Ai Ai de las Alas will receive the Bert Marcelo Lifetime Achievement Award during the 35th Box-Office King and Queen of RP Movies Grand Annual Awards on April 13 at the Meralco Theater.

De las Alas is being cited by the Guillermo Mendoza Memorial Scholarship Foundation for her "invaluable contribution to the Philippine entertainment industry in the field of comedy."

Last year, the foundation named her Box-Office Queen for the movie "Tanging Ina," the country's top-grossing movie of all time.

Best Actress winner

The movie also won for De las Alas two Best Actress awards—one from the Cultural Center of the Philippines (Tanglaw) and another from Philippine Movie Press Club (Star).

De las Alas is a Backroom talent.

Another Backroom artist, K and the Boxers, will be cited in the same program as Most Promising Group Singer/Entertainer. The band has won several awards previously among them Best Performance in Bars, Restaurants and Lounges, Aliw 2004; and Best Novelty Recording, Awit 2004;

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GINA Alajar

LORNA Tolentino

ARA Mina

Stars' favorite Bible verses

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

DID the Holy Week give you a chance to do some soul-searching, or were you too busy searching for your soul mate in Boracay, Baguio etc?

Sad to say, *Semana Santa* has become more of a holiday instead of the holy days that they're supposed to be. Now that Easter's here, what has been resurrected in your lives? And what is it you're really hunting for (leave the Easter eggs to the kids)? I fondly remember the Easter egg hunts that my mom used to host in our place. Each egg had a corresponding prize.

Ma made sure every kid went home with something. That's the very thing with Easter. It leaves a dent in our hearts even when we are not paying attention. Suddenly everything seems rosier and lighter, all courtesy of the Almighty One up above.

In the spirit of Easter, I asked some celebrities what biblical verse has had the strongest impact on them and why. The Bible is sort of our map to heaven. Isn't it funny that we get all worked up preparing tickets/passports/visas and packing our stuff for the Holy Week break but forget all about our journey to Heaven?

Are we ready for it? For bookings to the "Real Paradise," read "The Book of all Books."

Happy Easter! Happy Trip to Heaven!

ARA MINA: "Never will I leave you nor forsake you." When intrigues hound me, this verse gives me strength and encouragement. Men come and go but Jesus is for keeps!

TONI ROSE GAYDA: "Because of His kindness you have been saved." By trusting Christ we are saved. Even trusting is not of ourselves. It's a gift from God. Salvation is not a gift for the good we have done, so none of us can take credit for it.

PINKY AMADOR: "Come to me all of you who are weary and I will give you rest." Show biz can be very demanding and stressful. When I feel burnt out, this verse never fails to refresh my mind, body and spirit!

LORNA TOLENTINO: "Do not do unto others what you do not want them to do unto you." I meet all kinds of people in show biz. *May totoo, mayroon ding*

plastic. What's important is, I am true to them and to myself. If, for some reason they hurt me, I just lift them up to the Lord. *Sila naman magdadala ng karma at di*

ako although I don't wish anybody ill.

GINA ALAJAR: "Do not worry about tomorrow, what you will eat or what you will drink—Matthew." I've had my ups and downs in my career and personal life, but they have never made me lose faith. God always provides as long as He sees that we have done our share, too.)

ANDREA DEL ROSARIO: "And I thirst…" We should always seek out what the Lord wants us to do in our lives. *'Wag yung puro diskarte natin.* Let God take

the driver's seat and you'll never have to take detours)

NINA: "If anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you so you also must do." It's easy to lose your temper with all the demands and pressures in this business, but that solves nothing. It's just a waste of time and energy. This verse reminds us to always have a forgiving heart. We all have our faults, so we have no right to get mad at others just because they did something wrong to us.

FRANCIS MAGALONA: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the word was God." This verse sums it all up. God is everything! No

ifs or buts!

VHONG NAVARRO: "Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand that He may lift you up in due time." Stars are prone to get swell-headed if they believe all the hype about them. This verse keeps my feet on the ground.

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(For feedback, e-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)

Drink up or speak up. Our continued reliance on imported fossil fuels like coal and oil for energy is one of the largest reasons behind problems like global warming, air pollution, the rise in respiratory ailments, and the worsening condition of our water supplies. This dependence also leaves us economically vulnerable to the spiralling cost of coal and oil in the world market. And things will only get murkier unless we reduce our use of coal and oil and push for the increased use of renewable energy sources like geothermal, wind, biomass, hydro, and solar. Speak up and let the government know you want clean energy. Text WWF YES <Your Name> to 2366 for Globe (P2.50/text) or log on to www.powerswitch.org.ph/vote Act now and help get the Renewable Energy Bill passed into law. Maybe then, the future won't be such a hard thing to swallow.

INQUIRER WWF

Powerhouse Cast in Their Sexiest Roles Ever!

LOVE & BETRAYAL BEGINS APRIL 6

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP

5 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS INCLUDING BEST PICTURE DRAMA

JULIA ROBERTS JUDE LAW NATALIE PORTMAN CLIVE OWEN

A MIKE NICHOLS FILM

CLOSER

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www.SonyPictures.net PRODUCED BY MIKE NICHOLS JOHN CALLEY CARY BROKAW DIRECTED BY MIKE NICHOLS

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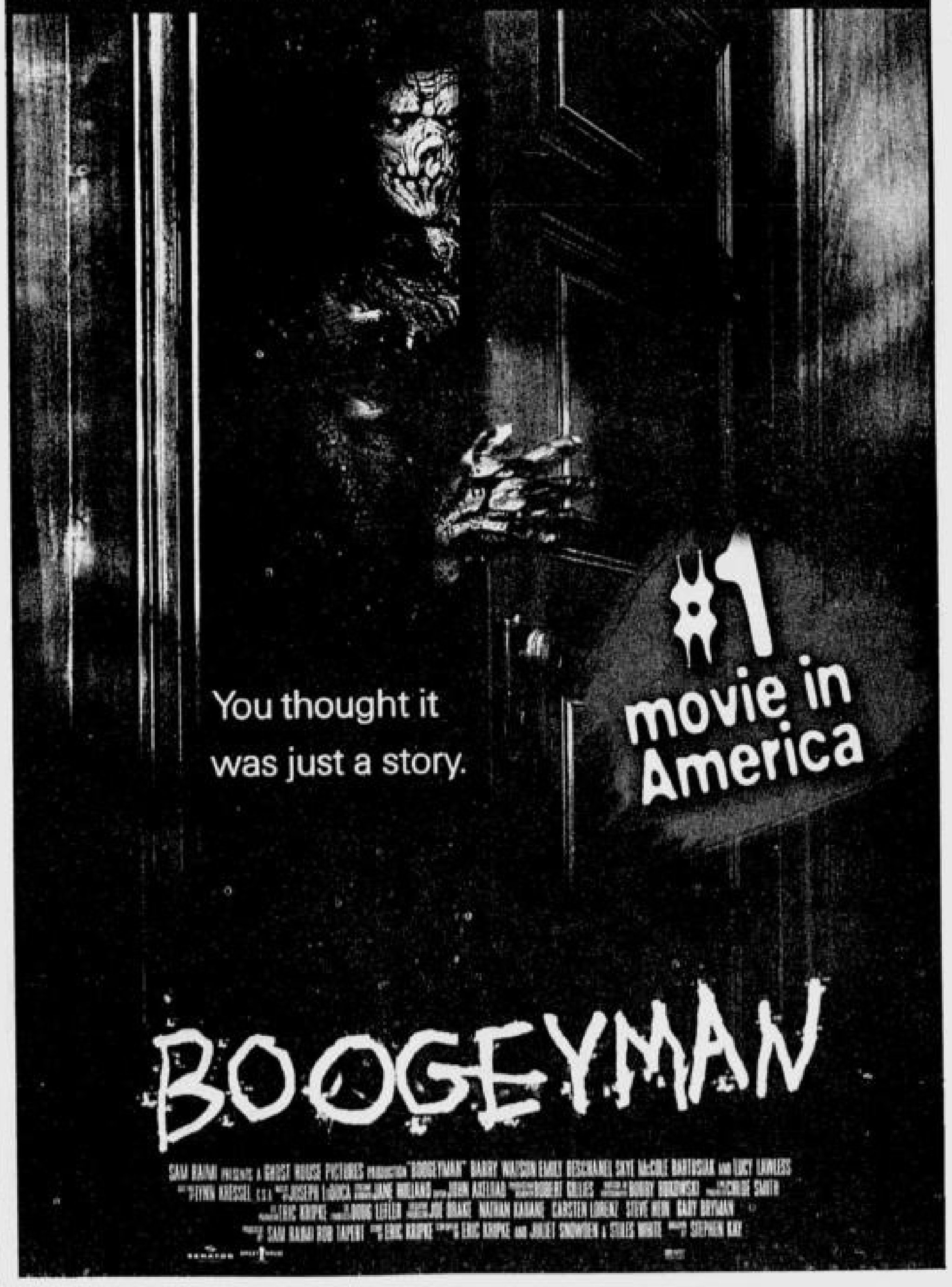
COMING SOON

MTRCB Rating ▶ PG 13 "Parents are strongly cautioned in bringing along kids below seven due to some scenes that might stress their sensitivities".

From SAM RAIMI - the director of SPIDERMAN



BIGGER MORE ABSORBENT ONLY IN THEATRES APRIL 6, WED.

united international pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation

Nickelodeon
THE SpongeBob SquarePants MOVIE

united international pictures

MTRCB RATING ▶ G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE

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INQUIRER WWF

GINA Alajar

LORNA Tolentino

ARA Mina

Stars' favorite Bible verses

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

DID the Holy Week give you a chance to do some soul-searching, or were you too busy searching for your soul mate in Boracay, Baguio etc?

Sad to say, *Semana Santa* has become more of a holiday instead of the holy days that they're supposed to be. Now that Easter's here, what has been resurrected in your lives? And what is it you're really hunting for (leave the Easter eggs to the kids)? I fondly remember the Easter egg hunts that my mom used to host in our place. Each egg had a corresponding prize.

Ma made sure every kid went home with something. That's the very thing with Easter. It leaves a dent in our hearts even when we are not paying attention. Suddenly everything seems rosier and lighter, all courtesy of the Almighty One up above.

In the spirit of Easter, I asked some celebrities what biblical verse has had the strongest impact on them and why. The Bible is sort of our map to heaven. Isn't it funny that we get all worked up preparing tickets/passports/visas and packing our stuff for the Holy Week break but forget all about our journey to Heaven?

Are we ready for it? For bookings to the "Real Paradise," read "The Book of all Books."

Happy Easter! Happy Trip to Heaven!

ARA MINA: "Never will I leave you nor forsake you." When intrigues hound me, this verse gives me strength and encouragement. Men come and go but Jesus is for keeps!

TONI ROSE GAYDA: "Because of His kindness you have been saved." By trusting Christ we are saved. Even trusting is not of ourselves. It's a gift from God. Salvation is not a gift for the good we have done, so none of us can take credit for it.

PINKY AMADOR: "Come to me all of you who are weary and I will give you rest." Show biz can be very demanding and stressful. When I feel burnt out, this verse never fails to refresh my mind, body and spirit!

LORNA TOLENTINO: "Do not do unto others what you do not want them to do unto you." I meet all kinds of people in show biz. *May totoo, mayroon ding* plastic. What's important is, I am true to them and to myself. If, for some reason they hurt me, I just lift them up to the Lord. *Sila naman magdadala ng karma at di ako* although I don't wish anybody ill.

GINA ALAJAR: "Do not worry about tomorrow, what you will eat or what you will drink—Matthew." I've had my ups and downs in my career and personal life, but they have never made me lose faith. God always provides as long as He sees that we have done our share, too.)

ANDREA DEL ROSARIO: "And I thirst..." We should always seek out what the Lord wants us to do in our lives. *'Wag yung puro diskarte natin.* Let God take the driver's seat and you'll never have to take detours)

NINA: "If anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you so you also must do." It's easy to lose your temper with all the demands and pressures in this business, but that solves nothing. It's just a waste of time and energy. This verse reminds us to always have a forgiving heart. We all have our faults, so we have no right to get mad at others just because they did something wrong to us.

FRANCIS MAGALONA: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the word was God." This verse sums it all up. God is everything! No ifs or buts!

VHONG NAVARRO: "Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand that He may lift you up in due time." Stars are prone to get swell-headed if they believe all the hype about them. This verse keeps my feet on the ground.

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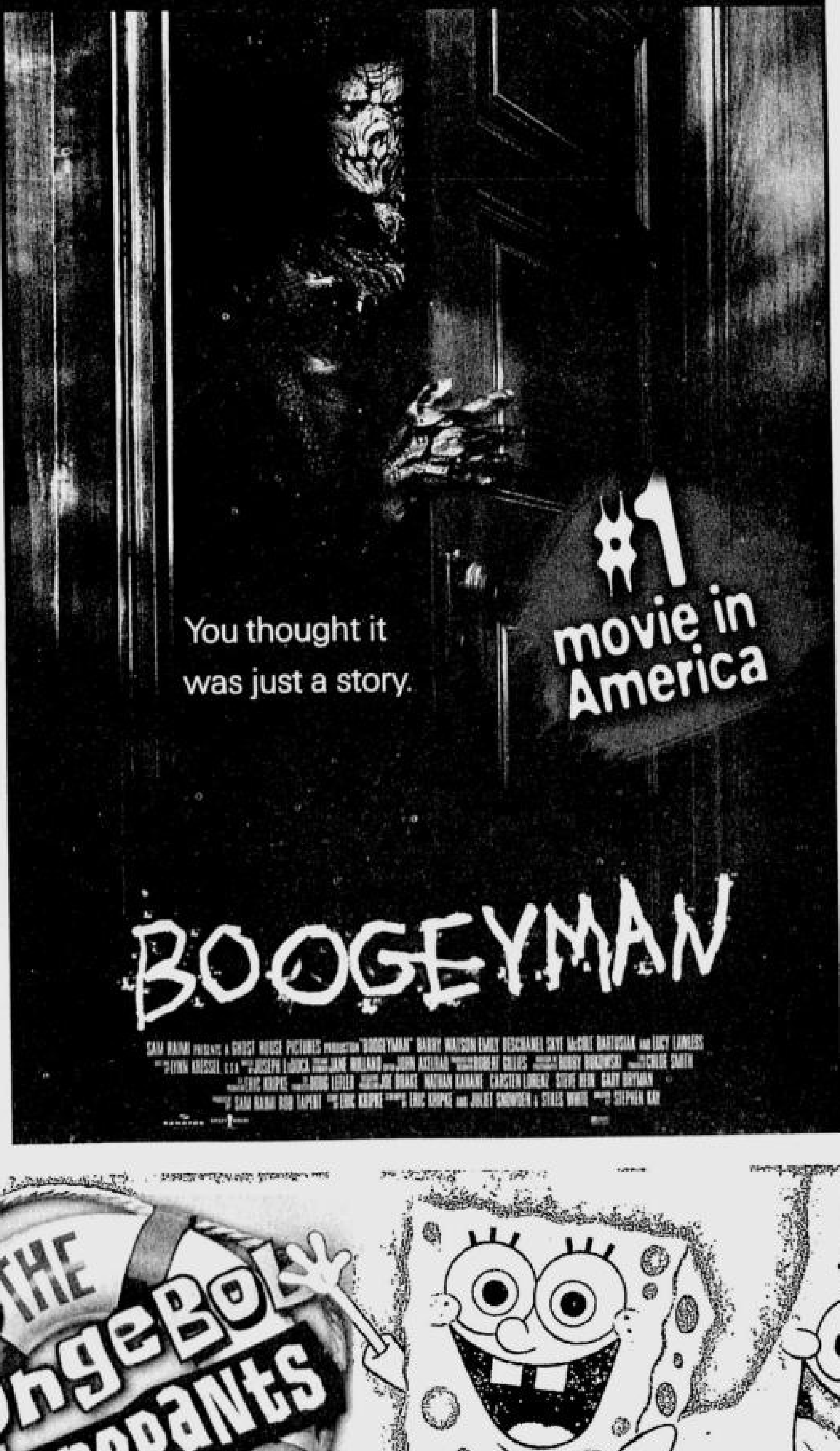

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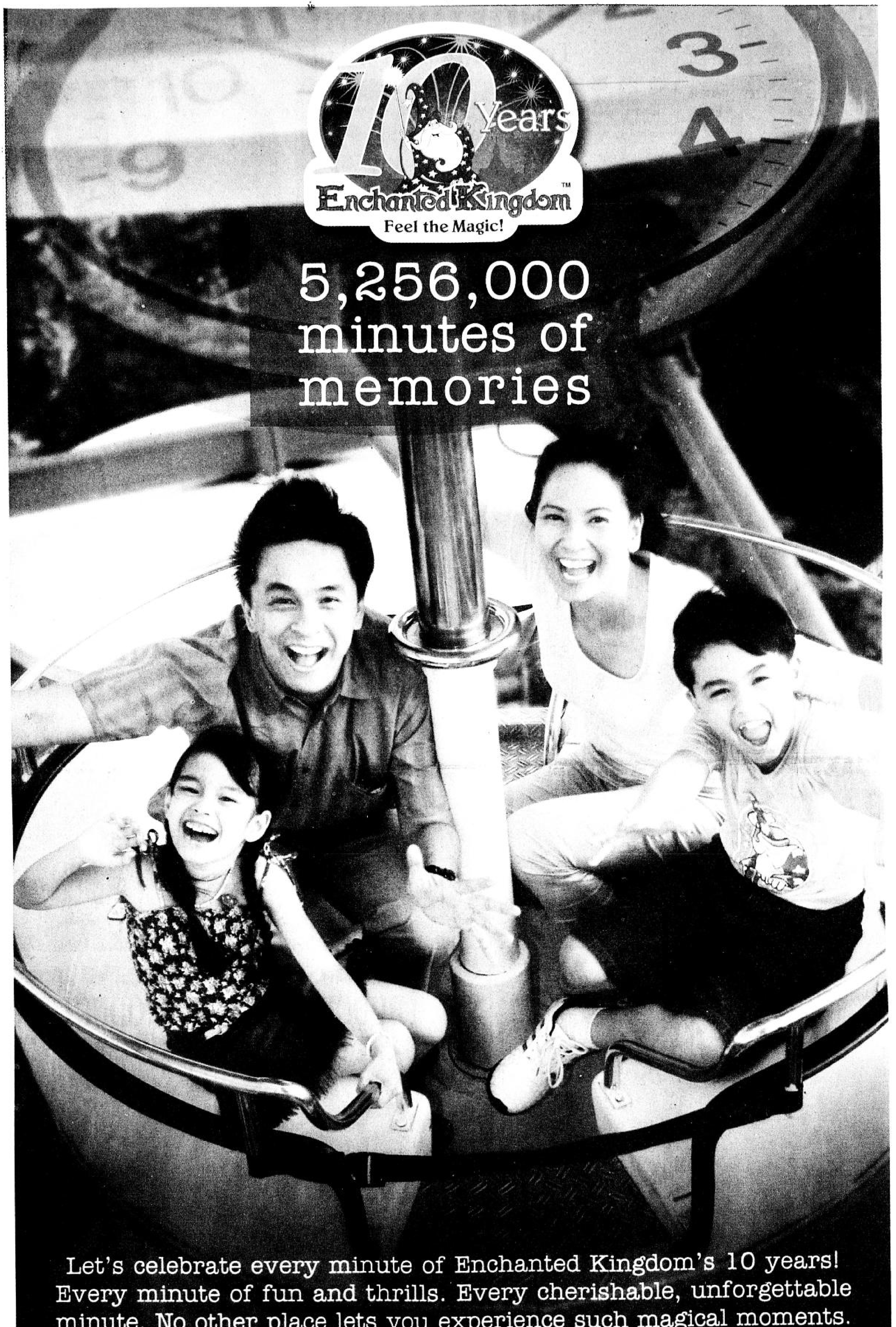

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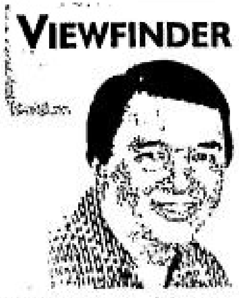
Frontrunners in 'AI' tilt

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

SOME "American Idol" fans have asked us to predict who the tilt's top three "final-finalists" will be. OK, we'll give our trusty but occasionally rusty crystal ball another spin, but we should first point out that there are really two contests being held here: for the best performer, and for the performer whom text-voters in the United States believe to be the best.

This is a key distinction to make, because ability and perceived ability can be two different qualities entirely, especially when the decision is being made by fans rather than industry insiders.

Of course, as far as "AI" is concerned, there can be only one winner, the "perceived quality" champ, because it's to that winning finalist that all of the tilt's top goodies will go. And so:

On point of objective standards for performing talent, the frontrunners are **Carrie Underwood, Nadia Turner** and **Anwar Robinson.**

Carrie impresses because of her beauty and clear, expressive voice. Anwar is similarly vocally exceptional, and his "dreadlocked" look is unique.

As for Nadia, her performances are consistently compelling, and her signature "huge hair" look reminds audiences that she's Tina Turner's show biz heiress.

CONSTANTINE: charismatic

CARRIE: clear voice

ANWAR: exceptional

NADIA: compelling

PHOTOS COURTESY OF IDOLONFOX.COM

Now, for the possible "popular" winners: This is tougher to figure out, because we have to second-guess the preferences of millions of people.

At one point, some 120 million text-voters were cast for the different finalists in the show.

We'll just have to go by general audience preferences in terms of voice, looks, style, empathy, emotion, interpretation and charisma.

Given those parameters, we belive that the most popular contenders are **Constantine Maroulis**, Carrie Underwood and **Anthony Fedorov.**

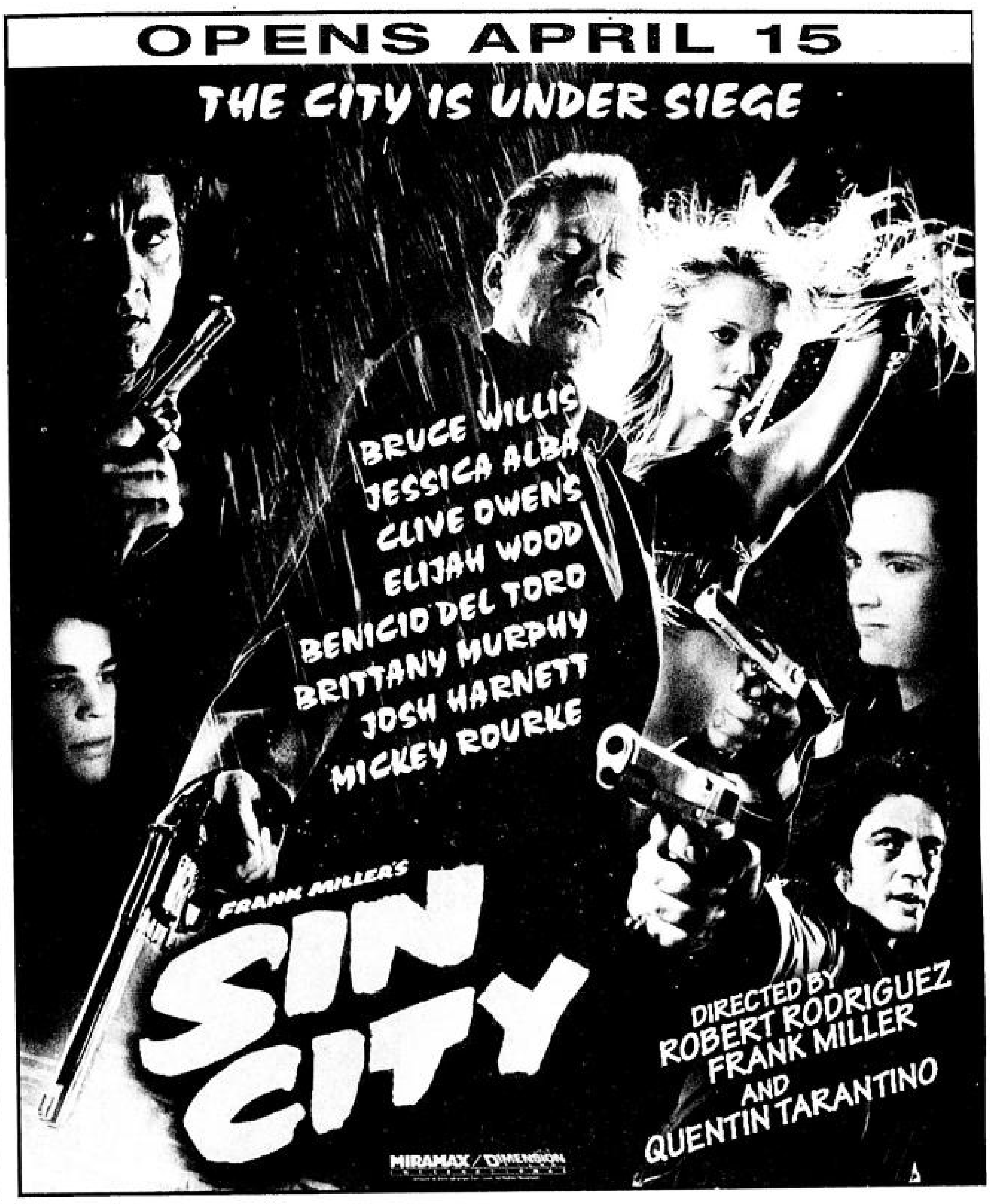
Constantine tops the list even if he isn't the best singer in the bunch, because he's good-looking, tall, edgy and exudes undeniable stellar charisma.

Carrie is still in the "final-final" list because she too has great looks and appeal, aside from a fine voice and versatility-plus.

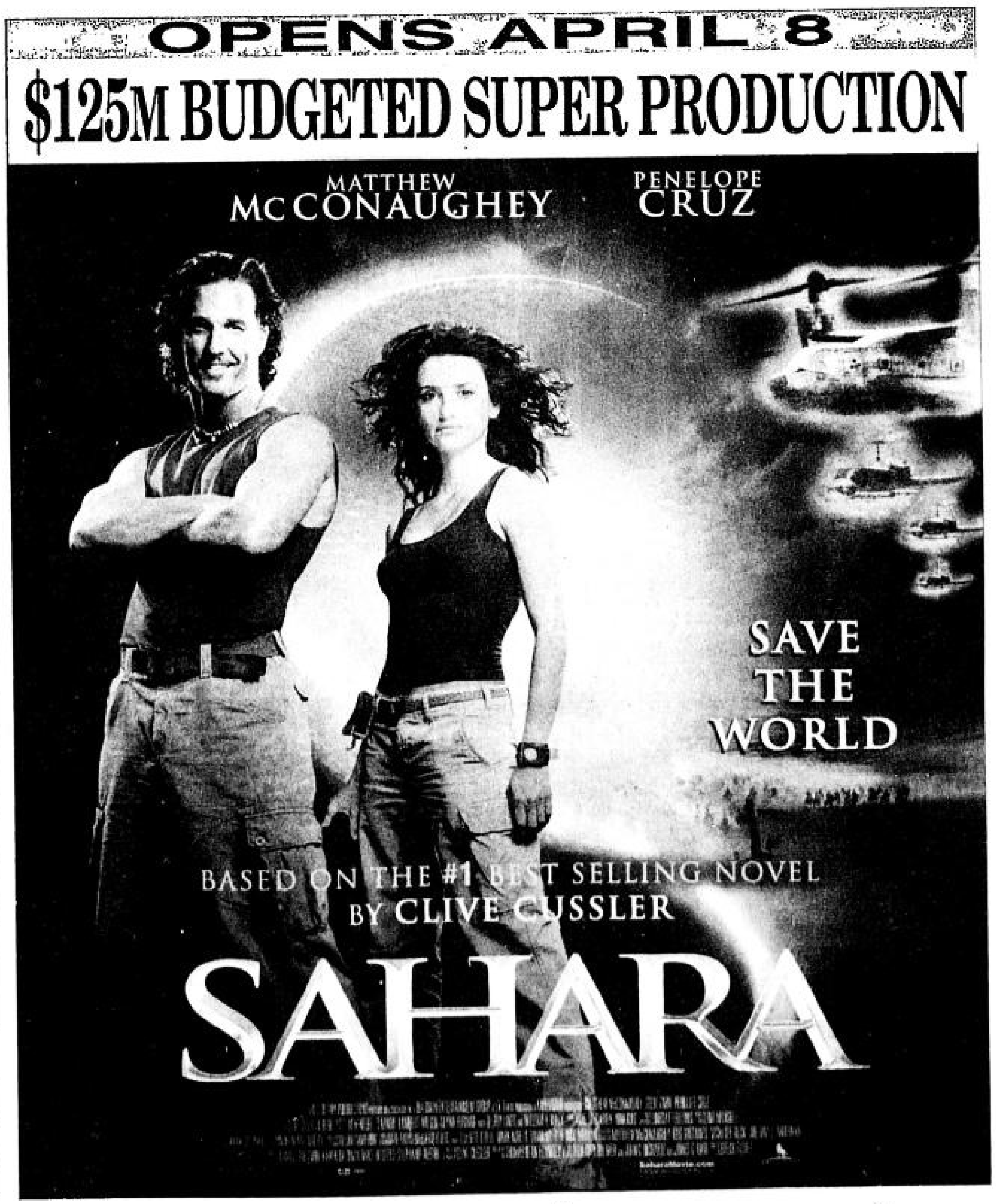
And Anthony makes the grade because his looks, style and appeal are reminiscent of 2003 runner-up **Clay Aiken**—and we all know how far that unique combination of "boyish appeal"

FRONTRUNNERS/ A2-7

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.
JOHN TRAVOLTA
UMA THURMAN
Be Cool
EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR THE NEXT BIG HIT
VINCE VAUGHN CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER
ANDRÉ BENJAMIN STEVEN TYLER CHRISTINA MILIAN
and starring HARVEY KEITEL with THE ROCK
and DANNY DeVITO
OPENS MARCH 30


OPENS APRIL 15
THE CITY IS UNDER SIEGE
BRUCE WILLIS
JESSICA ALBA
CLIVE OWENS
ELIJAH WOOD
BENICIO DEL TORO
BRITTANY MURPHY
JOSH HARNETT
MICKEY ROURKE
FRANK MILLER'S
SIN CITY
DIRECTED BY ROBERT RODRIGUEZ FRANK MILLER AND QUENTIN TARANTINO
MIRAMAX / DIMENSION

SHE PAID HIM $6,000 TO BE HER DATE AND GOT A-ONE-IN-A-MILLION LOVE AS BONUS.
DEBRA MESSING
DERMOT MULRONEY
The WEDDING DATE
VIVA
OPENS APRIL 13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$125M BUDGETED SUPER PRODUCTION
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PENELOPE CRUZ
SAVE THE WORLD
BASED ON THE #1 BEST SELLING NOVEL BY CLIVE CUSSLER
SAHARA

A three-hour homily

By Nice Rodriguez
and Elvira Mata

REVIEW

'The Gospel of John'
Directed by Philip Savile

LESS violence, more monologues

HENRY Ian Cusick as Jesus

AFTER seeing the movie separately ...

Elvira: I missed the beginning and left before the end of this looong movie. The rest of the time, I kept dozing off. It's not the movie; it's me. When I hear Mass, I fall asleep during the homily—and this movie is a three-hour homily.

Nice: I enjoyed the movie. But if I were a filmmaker, I wouldn't make any more movies about Jesus. Instead, I would make one on His apostles. Save for John, who lived a long life, and Judas, who hanged himself, all were martyred—crucified, stoned, dragged, hanged, flayed, slain with swords, shot with arrows. Think of all the possible cinematic effects!

This film is a word-by-word translation of John's gospel from the Good News Bible. It's been my personal bible since high school. My edition has illustrations that are improved stick figures. It is easy to read. Since I had it in the '70s, my Jesus is hip and groovy. He sayeth not, and nor is He the hath-and-thy kind.

Elvira: The gospel of John is a progressive revelation of the glory of God's only Son, who comes to reveal the Father and then returns in glory to the Father. It is perhaps the most difficult of the gospels to understand, not because John is more complex than the others, but because it is so different from the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. These three have so much material in common and follow the same basic outline, so much so that they are sometimes referred to as the "Synoptic Gospels"—from the Greek word synopsis, which means "seeing together."

Ahem. That was not really me. That was my evil twin.

Nice: This film's Jesus (Henry Ian Cusick) is jovial and grins like a Close-up model with a beard. He also walks like your average gay priest in springtime.

Elvira: He looks like Dustin Hoffman—the nose especially. Come to think of it, Hoffman played a man pretending to be a woman in "Tootsie." Cusick's Christ is earnest and sincere. He doesn't have the presence of Hoffman, though.

Nice: This Jesus enjoys crowds, much like your typical politician. He also has a lawyer's confidence. After all, He promotes His Father's Law. The theme of John's gospel is Jesus as the Son of God. Over and over, Jesus says that, and it's a virtual invitation to a nap.

Elvira: What I heard over and over was, "I am telling you the truth," followed by metaphorical maxims. It gave me such a headache.

Nice: In contrast, the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke emphasize that Jesus is King, Servant and Man. John's gospel is not synoptic or chronological like the other books. It is said to be the most mystical or spiritual. That's probably why it has to be narrated (voice by Christopher Plummer), and many times it sounds like a Mass or a narrated school play, save for the professional cast.

This film's Jesus really preaches—as in, monologues. One reviewer did say that He mutters like Tony Blair. At times, He sounded to me like Yogi Bear because of His phrasing. It is only when I got home and started reading my bible that I realized Cusick had to memorize such long lines for those scenes.

I wished the movie had subtitles so I could catch up. After all, this is the season to beef up on the Bible.

Save for Jesus and Mary Magdalene, the cast members look so ordinary ... Dare I say ugly? The apostles resemble people on welfare.

Elvira: *Mga taong grasa.*

Nice: Mother Mary (Diana Berriman) seems like a worn-out grandma. The acting is competent, though. Notable are the Samaritan woman, Pontius Pilate (Stephen Russell) and Simon Peter (Daniel Kash).

Elvira: Did you notice Mary Magdalene in the Last Supper scene? I really think she and Jesus had a thing.

Nice: This movie lacks the gore and brutality of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ."

Elvira: Thank God for that. I mean, if that's what people want to see, they should just watch the Pacquiao-Morales fight. Wonder if they're going to release that on DVD?

Nice: Director Philip Savile shelters the audience from the violence ... yet it hurts. Even a slap on Jesus' face sent my butt flying off my seat. Perhaps it is the magic of digital sound.

Elvira: By then, Elvira had left the building.

Nice: What I took with me from this movie was the focus on the very human nature of the apostles, mainly Peter, John and Thomas. As fishermen, they are so plain and unschooled, often bewildered and scared. "If the world hates you, just remember it has hated me first," Jesus warns them by way of foretelling their deaths. "Those who will kill you will think that by doing this they are serving God." You feel their loss after Jesus' death.

Elvira: What I took with me was the bag of left-over fish crackers that failed to keep me awake.

Nice: If you like long goodbyes, the Last Supper scene is a winner. This is the part of the Bible that you read when your life has amounted to nothing more than just an exercise in watching movies. This is the part where Jesus comforts, promises, prays and finally says: "Peace is what I leave with you. Do not be afraid." This is the part you pay to see, so you should stay awake. Take that from someone who has made the rounds of other cults and temples, only to find out that peace is also what they're selling.

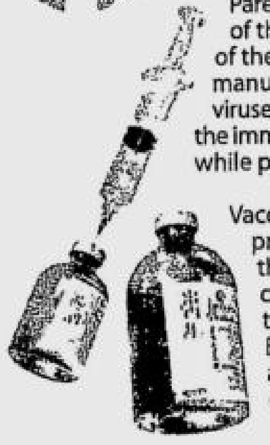
'If you like long goodbyes, make sure you stay awake for the Last Supper'

(We welcome your reviews. We may even publish them. Send them to every1isacritic@yahoo.com. Include your name and contact number.)

Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.
INFOBOX

IMMUNIZATION FACTS

1 What are vaccines? Why are vaccinations important?



Parents are concerned about the health and safety of their children and administering vaccines is one of the ways to protect them. Although vaccines are manufactured using disease-causing organisms, these viruses and bacteria are destroyed or weakened, allowing the immune system to defend the body against the disease while preventing or minimizing its symptoms.

Vaccines are important because they prevent disease in people who receive them and are responsible for the control of many infectious diseases that are still common in our country. Before vaccines became widely available, many children died from diseases that vaccines now prevent.

2 Won't getting the disease provide better protection?

In most cases, being vaccinated provides the same quality of protection as getting the disease itself, with the advantage of avoiding the disease's complications and risk of death.

3 Who needs to be immunized?

Although most people consider immunizations as being required mainly for young children, it is important to understand that school-aged children, teens, and even adults also need vaccines to provide protection for diseases against which they have no defenses, or to improve their immunity against diseases which they were not previously immunized.

4 Who should not receive vaccines?

There are very few individuals who should not be vaccinated; these include persons who have problems with their immune system, or those who have had severe or life-threatening reactions to certain vaccines or their components. Your doctor can provide advise if you belong to these categories.

5 What are the recommended vaccines and their required dose?

The following table lists the vaccines that are recommended for children by the Philippine Pediatric Society, the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines and the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination. Your doctor may also recommend other vaccines. Vaccines are given using different schedules, and your doctor will discuss which schedule is best for your child.

Vaccine	Number Of Doses
BCG	[illegible]
Diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (DPT)	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
Varicella (Chickenpox)	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
Hepatitis A	[illegible]
Influenza	1 or 2 then yearly thereafter

6 What do I expect to happen after immunization? Is there anything I can do to help my child?

Side effects can occur with any medicine, including vaccines. In most cases, vaccines cause no side effects or only mild reactions, such as fever, rash or soreness at the injection site. Slight discomfort is normal and should not be a cause for alarm.

Very very rarely, people experience more serious side effects. After vaccination, look for any unusual conditions like high fever or behavior changes. Signs of a serious allergic reaction when present will often be observed within 30 minutes of the vaccination, and include difficulty of breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat, or dizziness, and swelling of the throat.

Your doctor will advise you about fever and pain medications that can help your child with the mild reactions. Consult your doctor right away if you notice any unusual signs and symptoms. Consult your pediatrician for immunization requirements.

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Ang Sarap Magpagaling ni Mommy!
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for kids
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MISS CONGENIALITY 2
MTRCB Rating: PG 13

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Find out how she gets back to doing what she does best, this time, to save her pagent friends.
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PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
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☎ (032) 231-3876

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2 ROBOTS
3 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
4 ALONE IN THE DARK
5 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
6 HITCH
7 CONFIDENCE
8 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
9 HOSTAGE
10 RESERVED
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

sm city sta. mesa
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4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
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6 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
7 ROBOTS
8 HOSTAGE
9 ALONE IN THE DARK
10 HITCH

sm cinema tutuban
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4 RESERVED

sm city fairview
1 FINAL CUT
2 SHIRI smcinemaexclusive
3 CURSED
4 HOSTAGE
5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
6 ALONE IN THE DARK
7 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
8 ROBOTS
9 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
10 CONSTANTINE
11 HITCH
12 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD

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3 RESERVED
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9 ROBOTS
10 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

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4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

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8 ALONE IN THE DARK

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2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE smcinemaexclusive
4 MS. CONGENIALITY
5 HITCH
6 HOSTAGE
7 SHIRI smcinemaexclusive
8 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
9 ROBOTS
10 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
11 CURSED
12 COACH CARTER

sm city bicutan
1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 ROBOTS
4 ALONE IN THE DARK

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 HOSTAGE
2 FINAL CUT
3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 HITCH
5 ROBOTS
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

sm city marilao
1 CURSED
2 SHIRI smcinemaexclusive
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 SON OF THE MASK

sm city baguio
1 SON OF THE MASK 2
2 GOSPEL OF JOHN
3 RACING STRIPES
4 HITCH

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1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 CONFIDENCE
3 MS. CONGENIALITY
4 HOSTAGE
5 ROBOTS
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
7 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
8 CURSED

sm city batangas
1 SON OF THE MASK
2 SHIRI smcinemaexclusive
3 HITCH
4 CURSED

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1 ROBOTS
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
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4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY

sm city lucena
1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 SON OF THE MASK 2
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 CONSTANTINE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 ROBOTS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 RAY
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
7 HOSTAGE
8 HITCH

sm city iloilo
1 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
2 RESERVED
3 SON OF THE MASK 2
4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
5 THE AVIATOR
6 ROBOTS
7 RESERVED
8 HOSTAGE

sm city davao
1 ROBOTS
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
3 SON OF THE MASK 2
4 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
5 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
6 HITCH

sm city cagayan de oro
1 THE AVIATOR
2 SON OF THE MASK 2
3 INFECTION
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

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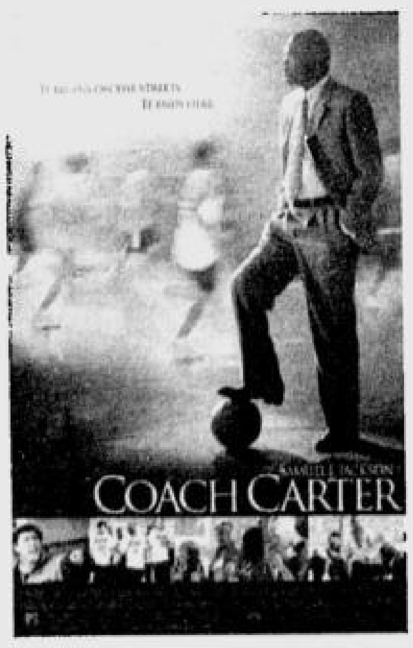

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AYALA CINEMAS

THX

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 ROBOTS	2 ALONE IN THE DARK	THX MS. CONGENIALITY 2 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 HITCH	5 SPANGLISH	6 MISS CONGENIALITY 2	7 COACH CARTER
G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 ROBOTS	2 MISS CONGENIALITY 2		
	3 ALONE IN THE DARK	4 HOSTAGE		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX 1 MISS CONGENIALITY 2	2 ALONE IN THE DARK	3 ROBOTS	
	4 HOSTAGE	5 HITCH		
ACC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 RAY	2 HITCH	3 ROBOTS	
	4 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	5 CLOSED		
GB1 GRENBELT 1	1 ROBOTS 1:30, 3:30, 5:30,7:30,9:30			
	2 MISS CONGENIALITY 2 11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25			
GB3 GRENBELT 1	THX 1 MISS CONGENIALITY 2 1 05, 3 40, 6 15, 8 50, 11 25 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX 2 MISS CONGENIALITY 2 12 30, 3 05, 5 40, 8 15, 10 50 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 COACH CARTER 12 50, 3 30, 6 10, 8 50, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 SPANGLISH 1.30, 4 00, 6.30, 9 00, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 ROBOTS 12.30, 2 30, 4 30, 6 30, 8 30, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS		

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Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS GB4 to 2333(Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Frontrunners in 'AI' tilt

From page A2-4

factors has taken Clay. In fact, he's become more popular in show biz than the big "teddy bear" who beat him, **Ruben Studdard**.

So, will Constantine, Carrie or Anthony romp off with the 2005 "American Idol" title?

Or, will it be a dark horse coming out left field, like **Vonzell Solomon** or **Anwar Robinson**? Only all those mega-millions of text-votes will eventually answer that quixotic question.

Whoever comes out on top, there's no denying that this year's crop is the singing tilt's best ever.

We can attribute that to the show's decision to raise its age limit for contestants, from 25 to 28.

Experience and maturity do count.

Actors who direct

In the '40 and '50s, the lines between actors and directors were clearly drawn. In the '60s, however, some stars decided to produce their own films, and a number of them opted to direct them as well.

Since then, many lead actors have also enjoyed alternative careers as directors.

The most popular is **Fernando Poe Jr.**, whose effectivity as a movie actor was eclipsed by his even more outstanding talent as director.

Using his directorial "alias," Ronwaldo Reyes, he came up with exceptional movies like "Tatlong Hari," "Mga Anghel na Walang Langit," "Ang Padrino," and the "Panday" film series.

Eddie Rodriguez, the "dramatic triangle king," also directed many movies, like "Kasalanan Kaya?" "Nakakahiya," and "Babae, Ikaw ang Dahilan."

(Movie trivia: Rodriguez produced **Ishmael Bernal**'s first film, "A Basta, sa Maynila Pa Rin Ako," and when he and Bernal had a difference of opinion, Bernal quit and Rodriguez finished directing the film himself.)

National Artist **Gerry de Leon** started his film career as an actor (in "Mga Pusong Dakila," 1937), but he turned to directing in 1938, with "Bahay Kubo." In the succeeding decades, he came up with masterworks like "Ako ang Katarungan," "The Moises Padilla Story," "Sanda Wong," "Banaue," "Hanggang sa Dulon ng Daigdig," "Noli Me Tangere," etc.

Like Gerry de Leon, **Eddie Garcia** got his start in film as a character actor, but he's also won many awards for directing movies like "Atsay," "Sinasamba Kita," "Magdusa Ka" and "Saan Nagtatago ang Pag-ibig." (To be continued.)

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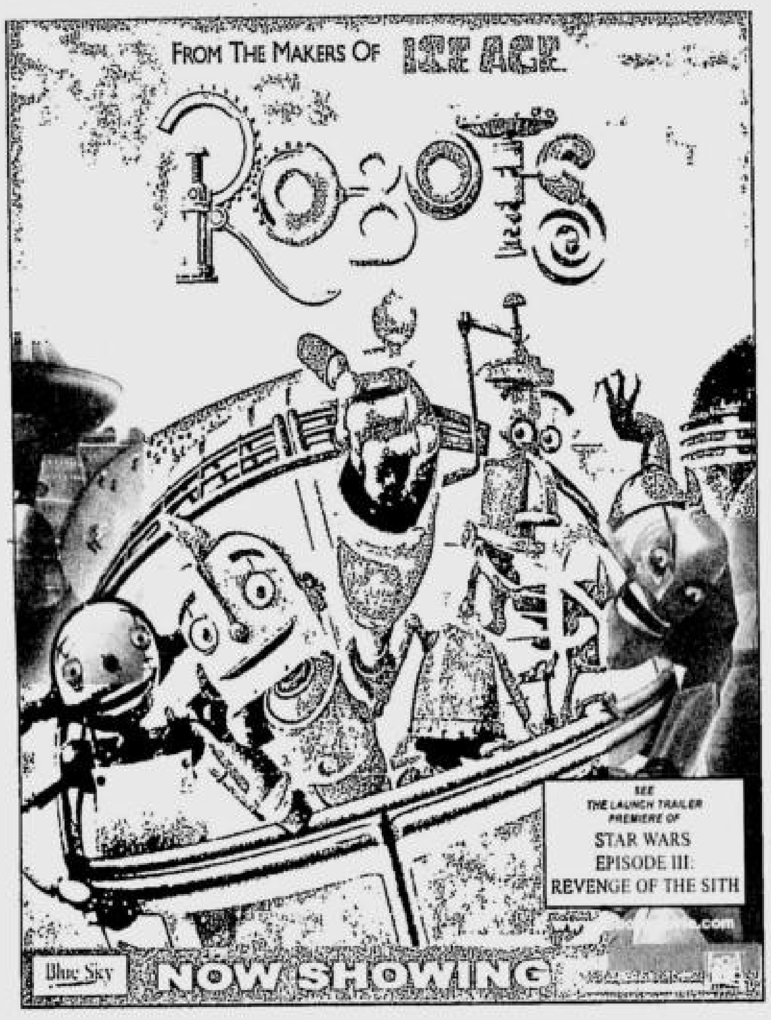
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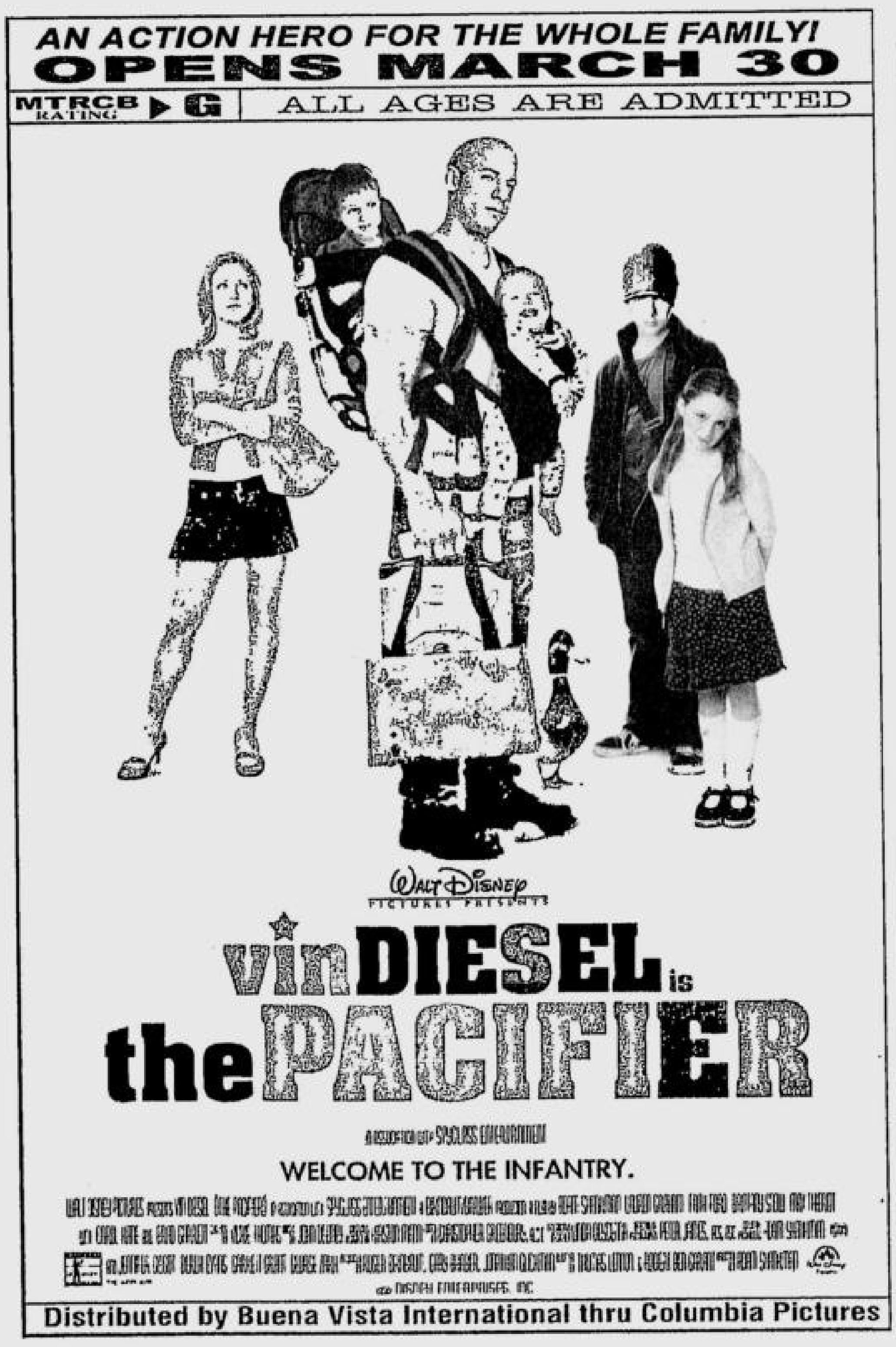
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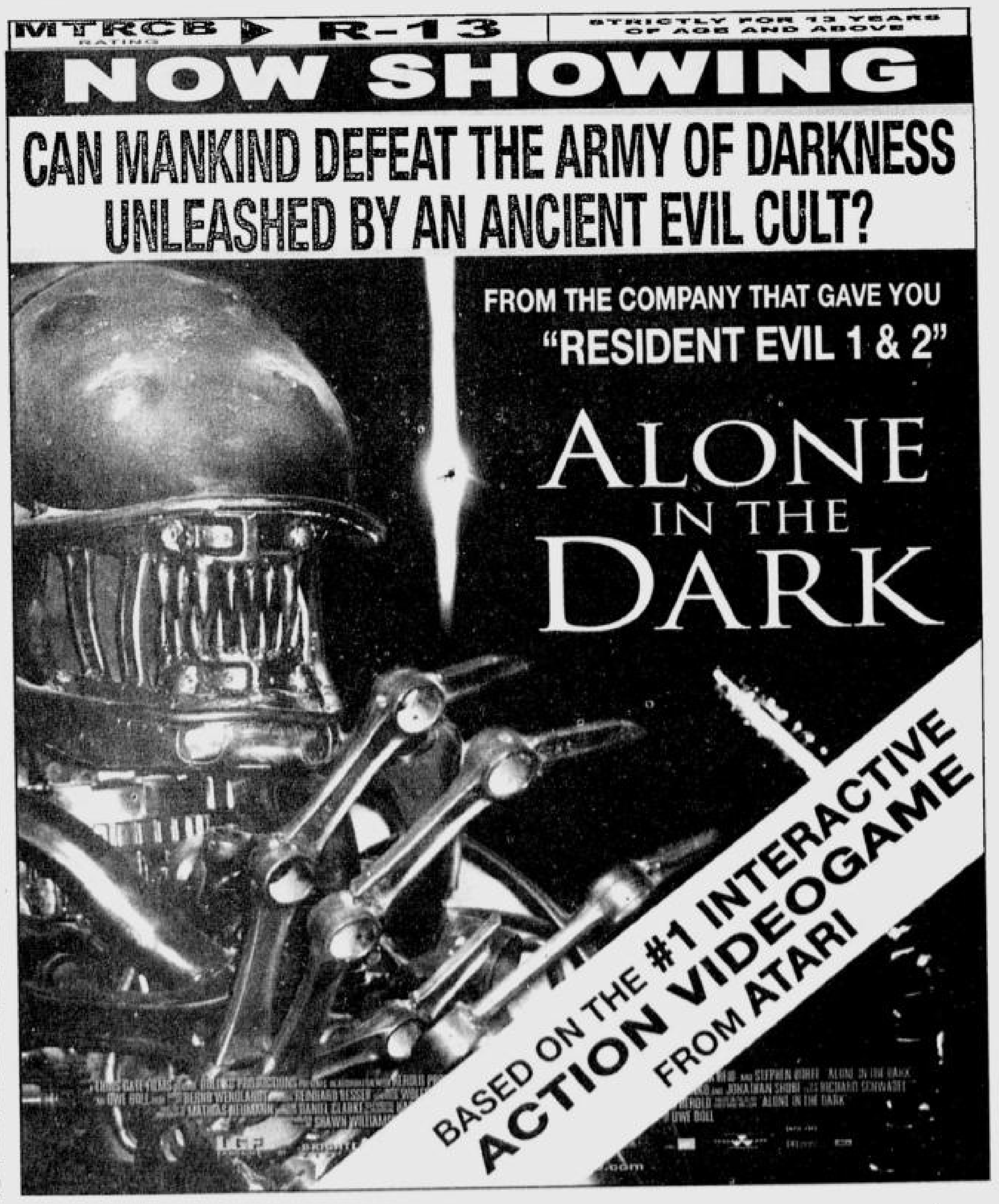
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80 scenes in 3 days

By Nini Valera

MIKE Lloren as Joji, the documentary writer, and former child actress Arabelle Cadocio as the leper Liway

IN SEARCH of a local movie that would spread the Gospel to urban poor communities, Korean businessman and lay missionary Jae J. Jang found only violent films that triggered hate and anger instead of love and hope.

While there were old US-made Christian movies, Jang was dismayed to discover that most of the residents in the areas that he ministers to every Sunday could not understand English.

So Jang, who owns and operates five companies here, decided to produce his own movie. "I challenged my employees to [do it]," he told INQUIRER Entertainment over the weekend. "Nobody believed we could."

He realized soon enough that it wasn't all that easy. After making a series of errors in the planning stage, he tapped industry professionals, whose faith in God was as unwavering as his own, to help him.

"They are not popular stars or household names," said Jang. "But they are Christians, and very devoted."

One of these people was television screenwriter and director Gina Marissa Tagasa, who had written scripts for Lino Brocka movies, including "Kislap sa Dilim" and "Natutulog Ba ang Diyos." In three days, Tagasa finished "Sa Kandungan ng Langit (In Heaven's Cradle)."

The movie, shot using digital technology and on a P6-million budget, tells the story of a film documentary writer in search of forgiveness for himself and a leprosy victim longing to regain her place in society. In the lead roles are non-stars—Arabelle Cadocio, Mike Lloren, Nante Montreal, Francis Mathew and Jake Palomo. Except for Montreal, whose performance in the Jeffrey Jeturian movie "Tuhog" earlier won for him a Best Actor award in an international film festival, the lead players are virtual nobodies, according to Tag-asa. The movie is based on a true-life story.

Miracle film

"Kandungan" premiered in Louis THX Cinema in 2003. As expected, it was far from a commercial success. But for Jang, it was an effective enough tool for evangelization, especially helpful in enlightening people and educating them about leprosy. The businessman has lived in the Philippines for the past 20 years. He chairs the Sorok Uni Foundation Inc., which oversees a "cured leprosy patient resettlement and rehabilitation program."

"We wanted to make people understand that they should not fear leprosy," Jang said.

He personally experienced hostility when he tried to put up a leprosy rehabilitation center in San Antonio Municipality, near Lipa City in Batangas. Residents in the area protested the building of the center by Jang's foundation. Jang's fervent hope is that more Filipinos will eventually be tolerant of lepers, and welcome them back to society.

Tagasa admitted that she herself had been squeamish about interviewing the woman on whose life the film was based.

"It's this mind-set that we have against lepers," said Tagasa. "But after talking to the woman, I understood her suffering, and I began to realize how wrong we were in making them outcasts."

"Kandungan" is also Tagasa's miracle movie. "We didn't have a grand plan for its commercial success," she confided. "But I call it a miracle film since we finished 80 scenes in three days."

The movie also won Best Drama film at the New York International Independent Film & Video Festival in December last year, according to Tagasa. It competed against 300 feature films from all over the world, she said.

"I wasn't expecting the movie to win," said the director. "It was sent there as a shot in the dark. I watched some of the films in competition, and they were mostly art films."

Filipino audiences had the chance to see the movie last Thursday on GMA 7. The special showing was sponsored by Samsung. Those who missed it can get a digital copy free with every purchase of a Samsung product.

SINGING sweethearts Christian Bautista and Rachelle Ann Go are set to perform at the town fiesta of Sto. Tomas, Pampanga today. Joining them are the Viva Hotbabes, Raymond Manalo, Emma Vergara and Gino Cervantes.

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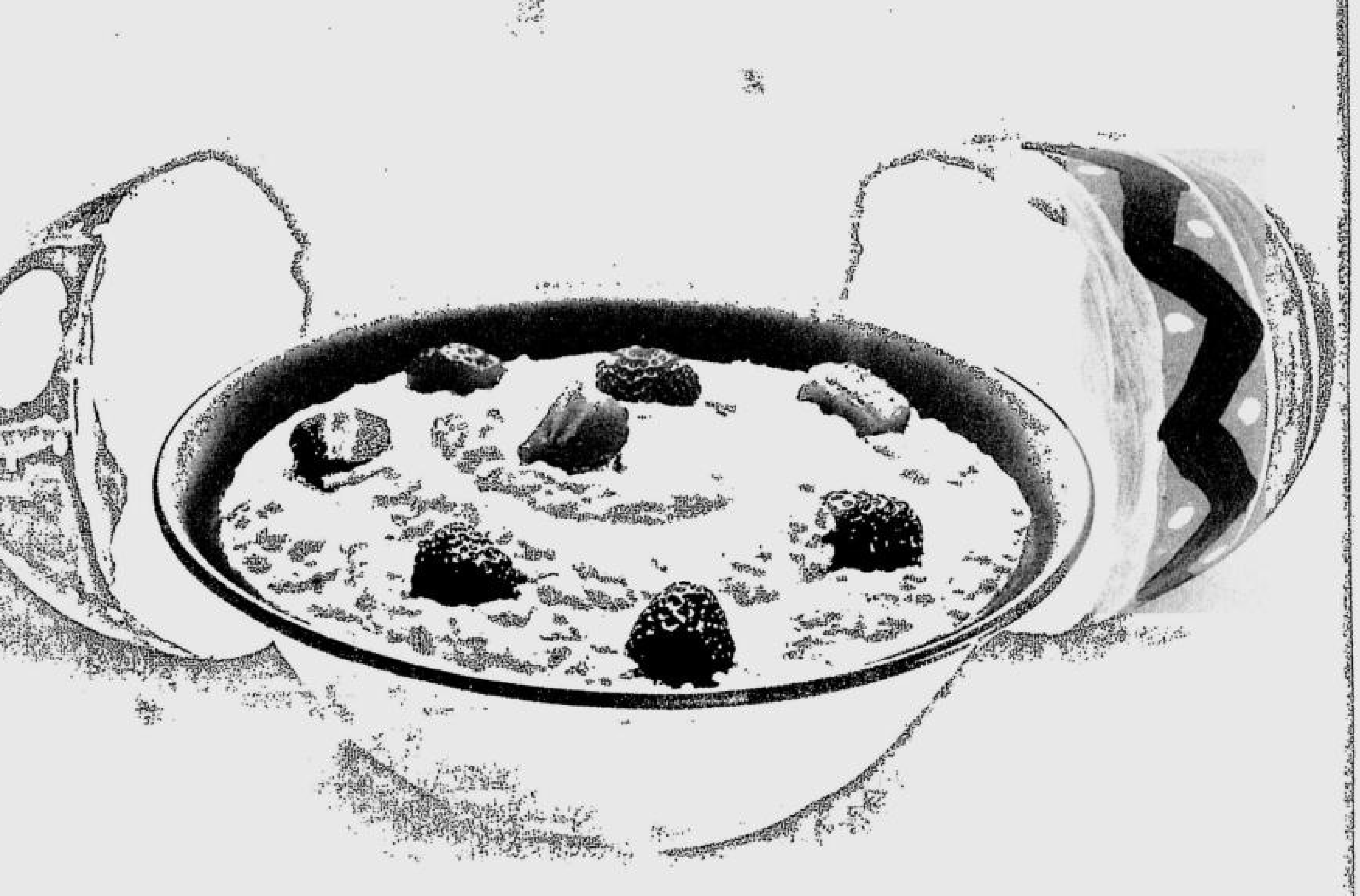
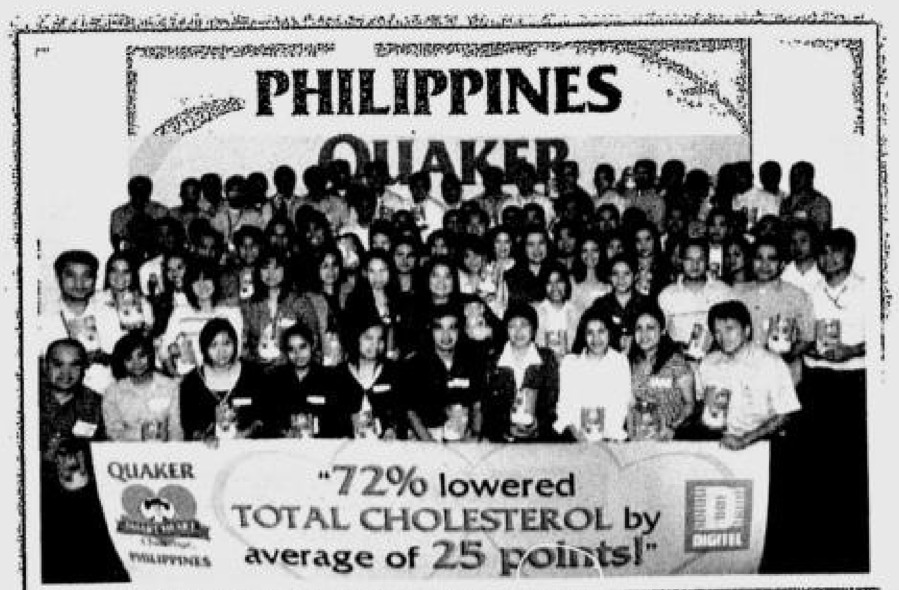


This Easter, crack open the secret to a new and healthier life.

As part of a continuing effort to provide Filipinos with a healthier breakfast, this year's Quaker Oatmeal Smart Heart Challenge has once again concluded with amazing results. A total of 98 participants from DIGITEL had a heart-healthy* serving of Quaker Oatmeal everyday for 30 days. That's 70 grams of healthy goodness for the heart! At the end of the challenge, they lowered their total cholesterol levels by an average of 25 points!

Like the latest participants of Quaker Oatmeal's Smart Heart Challenge, you too can live life anew. Make a fresh start this Easter by having a bowl of Quaker Oatmeal everyday. It's the smart way to be good to your heart.



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Partcipants from the recent Quaker Oatmeal Smart Heart Challenge (DIGITEL, 2004)

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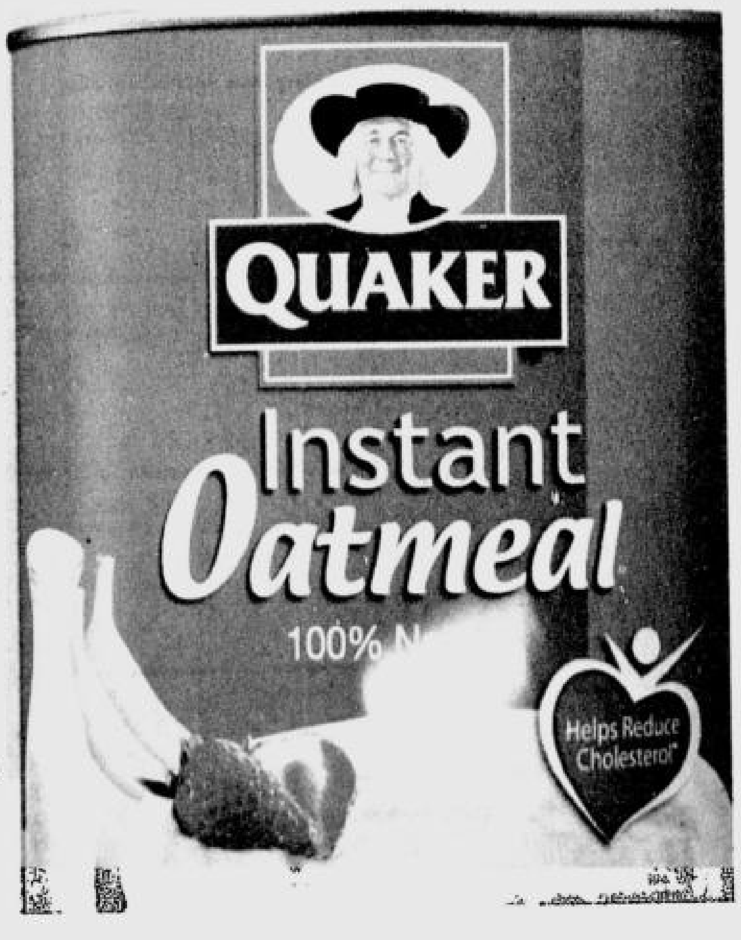
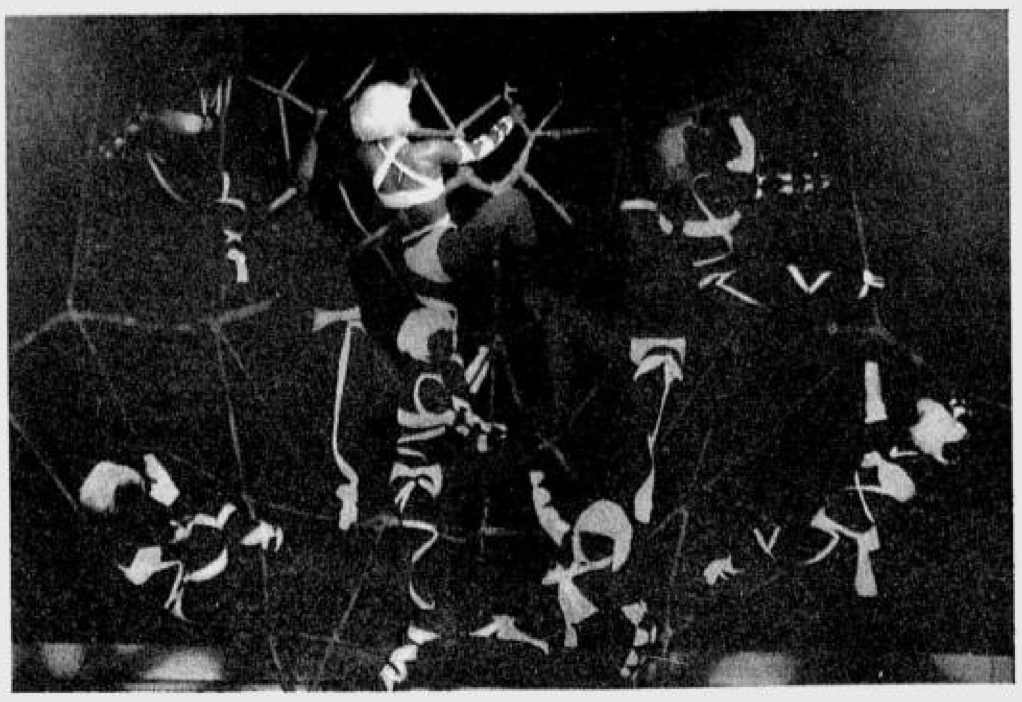
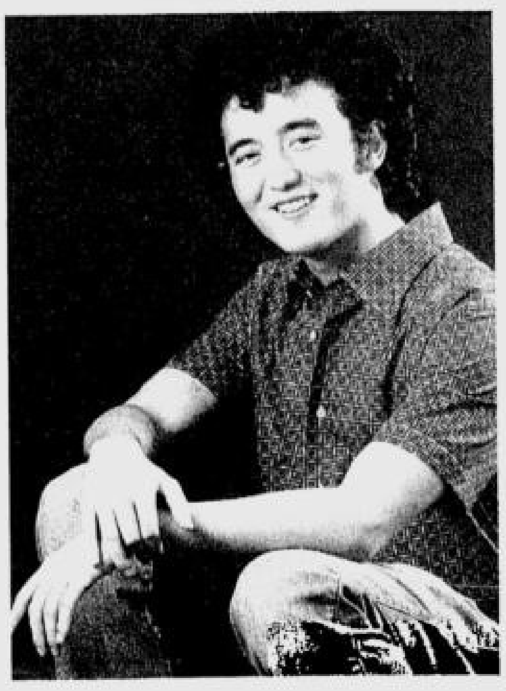




MWAH! IN THE SUMMER
Feathers, chiffon, silk and rhinestones characterize the new spectacular shows in Club Mwah! on Boni Avenue in Mandaluyong City. "Folies de Mwah 2" is the summer special, a musical kaleidoscope punctuated by witty vignettes. Call 535-7943 for showtime skeds.

Rudy and Lorna's son wants to be a movie director

STYLE AND DIRECTION BY LARRY LEVISTE
PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM
GROOMING BY AGATHA OF SALON YSABEL
MENSWEAR BY TUTTO MODA, GROUND LEVEL AT GLORIETTA



Meet Raphael Fernandez

By Larry Leviste
Contributor

SCOOP: Meet Raphael Fernandez, eldest son of Rudy Fernandez and Lorna Tolentino in his first print pictorial—for INQUIRER Entertainment.

Last week, he made his television debut on GMA 7's "Extra Challenge." Raphael and his younger brother Renz bested all the other sibling challengers on the reality show.

The Fernandez boys came across on the weeklong show as quick and sharp, surviving the perils of figuring out and fulfilling each task.

Raphael, 21, is a third year student at Ateneo University, majoring in Inter-Disciplinary Studies with a minor in Film and Psychology.

"Although my parents are actors," he said, "I would like to be a director. Only this week, 'Kadugo,' a short film I directed won first runner-up in the Ateneo Video Open. I'm really happy about that."

This summer, he is studying under Marilou Diaz-Abaya.

"I've directed two other short films. One is called 'Serbisyong Bayan,' about a murderous policeman, and 'Salamin,' about self-love. It was Direk Yam Laranas who taught me cinematography," said Raphael.

A self-confessed geek in high school, Raphael buried his creative head in reading (Plato, Socrates) and in his ever-growing DVD collection (with rare films from Japan by Takeshi, Kitano and Zatoichi).

At present, Raphael admires the films of Directors Quintin Tarantino, Akira Kurosawa and Martin Scorsese.

"I'm drawn to the dynamics of the human condition. I like to show the triumph of the spirit or the rotting of the flesh. I like to film irony and contradictions. The Filipino is like that. Ordinary and complex, tortured and yet surviving the insurmountable," said Raphael.

Today he wants to study aircraft flying, write poetry and even try acting. Tomorrow he would like to become the Orson Welles of Asia.

'Water!' is Leo's new battle cry

SAN FRANCISCO—Actor Leonardo DiCaprio helped environmentalists launch an international campaign to draw attention to the hundreds of millions of people worldwide who don't have access to clean water.

"We are here to help raise awareness about one of the greatest challenges facing humanity today—lack of clean water for billions around the world," DiCaprio said Tuesday, speaking on World Water Day at the Clift Hotel in San Francisco with Global Green USA President Matt Petersen.

Human right

DiCaprio, who earned a Best Actor nomination this year for playing Howard Hughes in "The Aviator," signed a petition that calls on President George W. Bush and other government leaders to commit to a legally binding United Nations treaty declaring clean water a basic human right.

DiCaprio screened a short film he helped produce that highlights the need to conserve the world's limited supply of fresh water and provide greater access to the more than 1.2 billion people without clean water.

The film, called "Water Planet," will be distributed starting next month on the Internet. *AP*

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PREMIERE
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2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
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2 RESERVED
3 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
5 RENOVATION

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3 HOSTAGE
4 BAHAY NI LOLA
5 (DOLBY) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

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2 (SDDS) HITCH
3 (DTS) ROBOTS
4 GOLD (DTS) MISS CONGENIALITY
5 GOLD (DOLBY) ALONE IN THE DARK
6 GOLD (SDDS) HOSTAGE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) MISS CONGENIALITY
8 BAHAY NI LOLA
9 CURSE
10 CONFIDENCE

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2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 (DTS EX) ROBOTS
4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
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2 ROBOTS
3 (DOLBY) RAY
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Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
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2 LEMONY SNICKETS
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4 (DTS) CONSTANTINE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
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(Alabang) tel 850.1276
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2 HAPDI NG TAGINIT
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4 HITCH

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2 ALONE IN THE DARK

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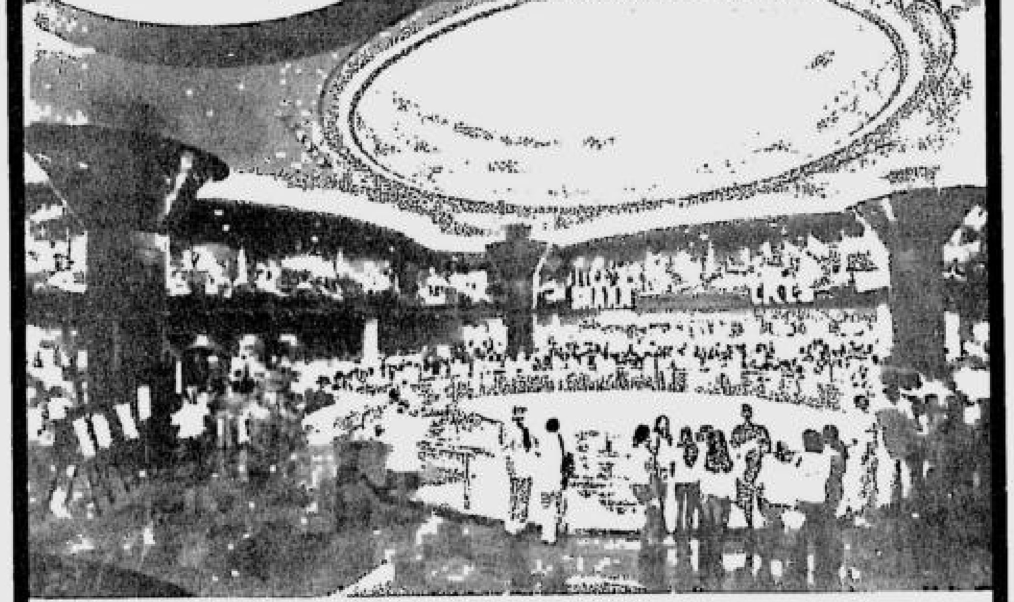
Araneta Center Entertainment Guide



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❸ HOSTAGE
❹ BAHAY NI LOLA 2
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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
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PBA REINFORCED CONFERENCE- APR.1
4:45pm SHELL vs SAN MIGUEL : 7:35pm REDBULL vs STA LUCIA

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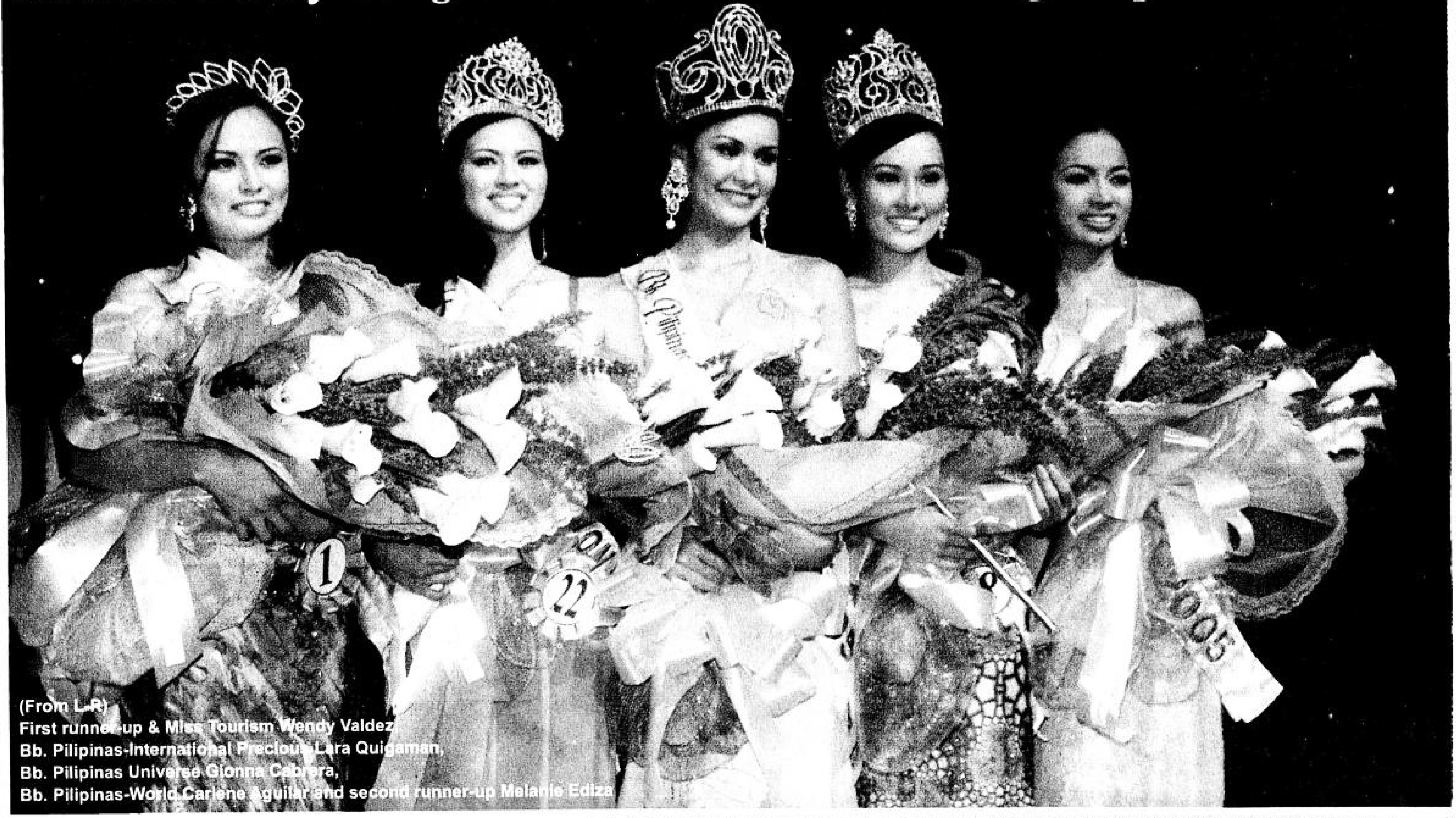
Beauties Galore!
SMART Buddy Congratulates the new Binibining Pilipinas winners



(From L-R)
First runner-up & Miss Tourism Wendy Valdez,
Bb. Pilipinas-International Precious Lara Quigaman,
Bb. Pilipinas Universe Gionna Cabrera,
Bb. Pilipinas-World Carlene Aguilar and second runner-up Melanie Ediza

In this land blessed with beauties who possess brains, beauty pageants seem to be everywhere. However, none can top the prestige of the Binibining Pilipinas pageant. The titles offered in this beauty tilt are the cream of the crop and has consistently introduced fresh faces to an adoring Filipino public. 2005 is no different as SMART welcomed the new loveliest faces in all the land!

The annual contest saw 23 attractive Filipinas strutting their stuff, hoping to represent the country abroad. This year, SMART subscribers were able to text in the "SMART Texters' Choice" who automatically landed a spot in the top ten. Candidate number 3, Ricamarie Ann Taylor got the nod, while also winning Miss Reader's Choice. Five lucky texters would be chosen to win 5 SMART Buddy Nokia 6610i's for making their choices known as well.

In the end, three lucky ladies emerged to win the coveted crowns: Precious Lara Quigaman was named Binibining Pilipinas-International, Carlene Aguilar is the new Binibining Pilipinas-World, and 22-year old Marketing and Communications graduate Gionna Cabrera was crowned Binibining Pilipinas-Universe. These three winners, as well as SMART Texters' Choice winner Ricamarie, all won new SMART Buddy Nokia 6170s for their accomplishments. That will surely keep them connected with friends and family wherever they may find themselves in the future.

From the historic Araneta Coliseum, these three gorgeous representatives of the ideal Filipina hope to gain international fame through other competitions slated for the rest of the year. As SMART Buddy congratulates the newest beauty titlists for their triumph, we commend them for their poise, intelligence, grace, and stunning personalities. It was a combination of these traits that won them the adulation of the public, as well as the nod of the judges.

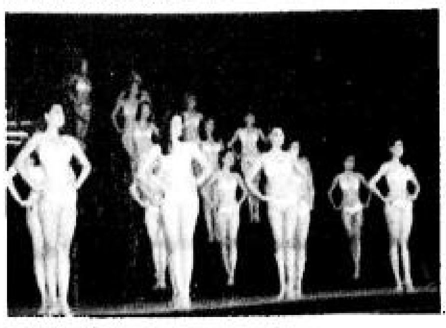
SMART Buddy Pre-Paid

SMART's Ricky Isla presents a bouquet to Ricamarie Ann Taylor, the winner of "SMART's Texters Choice"

Richard Gomez served as host

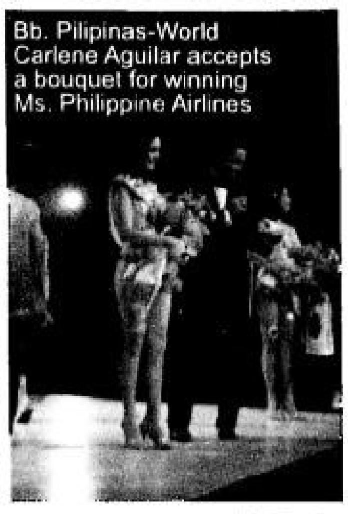
Paolo Bedi[illegible] ran in hosting beauty pageants

The lovely Angel Locsin graced the occasion

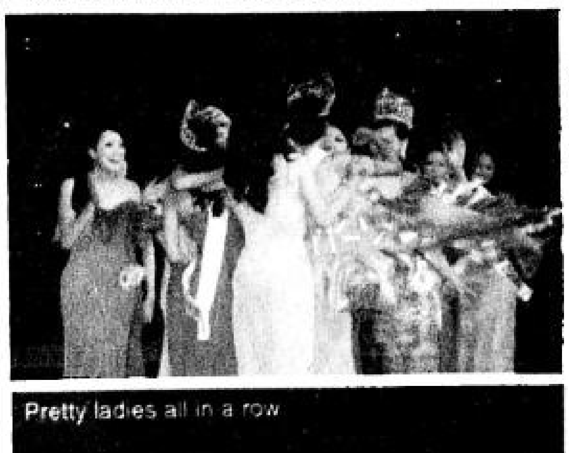


Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Gionna Cabrera also won Ms. Photogenic

Bb. Pilipinas-World Carlene Aguilar accepts a bouquet for winning Ms. Philippine Airlines



Judges applaud the new beauty queens



Pretty ladies all in a row

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Pinky: This is all temporary

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

OUT OF THE CLOSET

THEATER and movie actress Pinky Amador says she is trying hard to be comfortable in her "temporary" home.

For three years now, Pinky has been living in a rented condominium unit in Makati City. "The landlord is a friend of mine," says the actress during INQUIRER Entertainment's recent visit. "I'm still thinking whether I should buy a property here. I used to own a two-bedroom house. After I bought it, I found out *may kaso pala* (it was under litigation)."

When she moved into the condo, first thing she did was to paint the walls. "I brought all of my own lighting and sound systems. Lighting does a lot for the ambience of a place," she explains. "What's funny is, my friends say they like this place more than the previous one, that it's cozier. This is so small. *Pinagkasya ko na lang kung ano ang puede* (I just fitted in whatever I could)."

It's quite a lot, actually. In the living room is Pinky's 100-year-old Chinese wedding cabinet, which she bought in (the furniture store) Tomlinson. "It's made of *ju* (elm) wood. I'm not married yet, so I don't have much use for it. It should contain one's bridal stuff, linens, things needed by a family or a couple—as opposed to a single," she says. "In the meantime, I put all my shoes in it."

Another closet contains Pinky's DVD collection and eyeglasses. It is a vintage Tibetan cabinet that she bought as a birthday present for herself. "I forgot what it's for," she says, "but it's certainly not for DVDs."

This is why, when she buys clothes and shoes, she says, she picks those that do not take up too much space. "Some of my clothes are still in bags and big plastic containers," she points out.

"Clothes are a big part of my wardrobe, but I tend to concentrate more on items like shoes, bags and accessories. That's because I've learned through the years that they can dress up or dress down an outfit. For example, a simple top with a dash of turquoise can be matched with turquoise shoes, turquoise trousers, turquoise bag, turquoise earrings."

The actress confesses to being a lover of shoes, owning up to a thousand pairs. "But I [routinely] give them away," she says. "In London, as of 15 years ago, I already had close to 300 pairs. That included slippers, which I loved wearing to the beach."

PINKY/ A4-2

GUCCI shoes made of pony hair

SALOMON rubber shoes for adventure and cross-country racing

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1 ROBOTS
2 HOSTAGE
3 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
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GUCCI boots for travelling

100-YEAR-OLD Chinese wedding cabinet where she keeps her shoes

Pinky: This is all temporary

From page A4-1

SHOES

"This pair of Guccis is about 8 years old. I'm the type of person who, if I like the design, I get all the colors. So I have this in gold, brown and red.

"Every time I wear them I always get compliments. They're not environment-friendly, being made of pony hair. It's just that I get to use them onstage, for formal events, and for shows. They're a bit clumpy, but they're my old dependables.

"If I'm buying a pair for a particular outfit, then basically I know what I want—strappy or closed, or if I want it sturdy because I know I'm going to dance in it. But if I'm just buying because there's a sale or something, anything goes. Usually, I look for what I don't have yet.

"For the more casual occasions, I own several high-heeled slip-ons. Again, I like the style so I have them in three colors—red, turquoise and green. They're practical, sexy and comfortable. Practical for me means I can use them in real life and for taping. For an actress, shoes are really important. For clothes *naman*, many of us have sponsors and a stylist who picks clothes for us.

"I really take care of my shoes. As you can see, they're still wrapped and stashed away in their boxes.

"I have two pairs of rubber shoes that I really like. One is from Adidas and one is from Salomon Brothers. I love the color of my Adidas —it's light blue. My Salomons are made for adventure/cross-country racing. I use them a lot when I travel, especially to Europe. This pair is very versatile because I could use it in the gym, for going out, and as slippers. The fabric is mesh, *puedeng mabasa at matuyo agad* (for getting wet and drying quickly). To clean it, all you have to do is to take out the lining.

"Most of my boots are in London. But I like the Guccis that I have here because they're just the right height. They're semi-square [toe], which means they're comfortable. I can walk long distances. They're made for traveling and not for shows. They're black, which means they're classic. For shows, I use the higher and flashier ones."

PINKY/ A4-3

LIGHT blue Adidas rubber shoes

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COACH CARTER PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	HITCH PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	MISS CONGENIALITY 2 PG13 12:50,3:15,5:40,8:05,10:30

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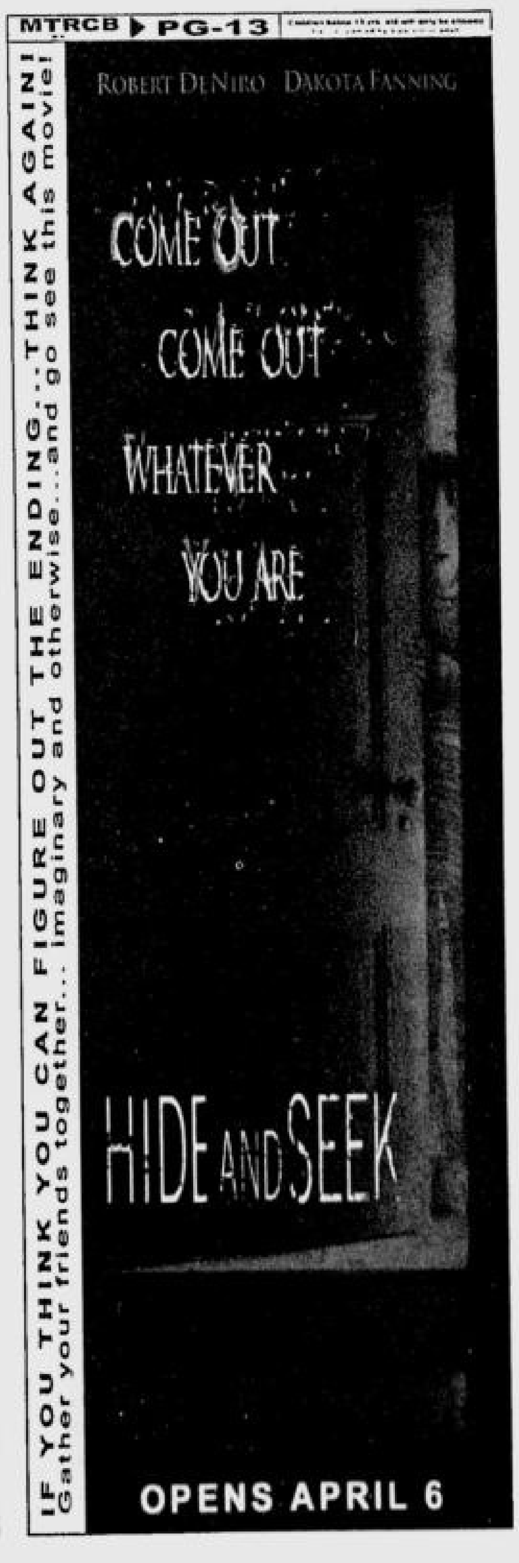
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Pinky: This is all temporary

GUCCI leather bag, "very flamboyant."

TOP left, scuba jacket from Athletica, perfect for going to the movies. Right, 3-year-old black tube dress. Left, mother-of-pearl necklace was a gift from friend Lala Lejeune

From page A4-2

BAG

"My favorite has got to be this black leather bag from Gucci. It's from this season. I got it in London last November. I love it because it's so flamboyant. As actress Jean Garcia would put it: '*May mas malaki pa bang G kang makukuha dyan* (Can you get a bigger G than that)?' I think it takes a certain personality to carry this bag, that's why I don't think a lot of people buy it. *Talagang* screaming. Carry *ko! 'Yun lang.*"

TOPS

"These are only two of my favorite blouses. One is a Jessica, which I bought here, and the other is a Robert Freidman, which I got in London.

"I've had the floral Freidman for so many years. I've worn it in so many films, in all my TV series, I've worn it to the beach, to weddings, to parties, everywhere.

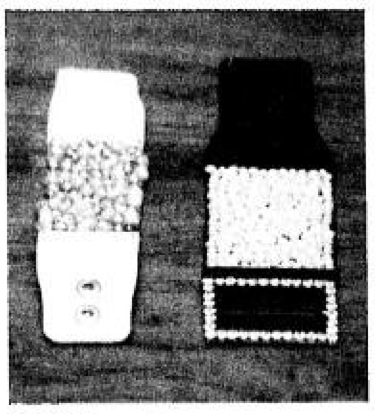
"This one from Jesicca, *marami nang kinita ito sa akin* (it has earned a lot for me). I like it because it's a turtleneck. I also love the fabric, although the color is quite understated. I try to find clothes that I can use for many occasions. I keep those that I can use here and abroad."

PANTS

"One of my favorite foreign brands is Paul Joseph. It's English. I wear it whenever I can because I love the fit. I own tuxedo-cut types, jumpers, PVC (polyvinyl chloride) pants, denims.

"Every year, whenever I go, I try to buy at least one pair from Paul Joseph. *Kaya lang* it's so expensive. If I can't afford it, I wait for the sale.

"My favorite pair of denims is from Paul Joseph, of course. It's in the laundry right now. It's semi-stretch and hipster. The color is not too dark, but not too light."



PEARL bracelets

HER newest shades

DRESS

"I've not used this since I lost weight. It's a black tube, and the details are on the back. I've had this for about three or four years now. The last time I used this was for my aunt's (the late theater stalwart Zenaida "Bibot" Amador) 70th birthday. I did a 20-minute video of her life; nobody had done that. I wore this and everybody complimented me."

JACKET

"This is from Athletica. It's a scuba jacket. I wear this a lot when I travel because it's really, really warm. It's like wearing a comforter. *Lamigin ako eh* (I easily get cold). People sometimes ask how I survived London. I always say, 'With great difficulty.' This is perfect for going to the movies at the Rockwell Mall. It's new; I bought it only two months ago. If could wear it everyday, I would. Actually, I had this washed only this week after wearing it for two months (laughs)."

TWO favorite tops—from Jessica and Robert Freidman

ACCESSORIES

"This mother-of-pearl necklace was a birthday (March 14) gift from my friend Lala Lejeune. It's a Cartier design, [but] made by another friend in Singapore. I wear this ring all the time. It's a blue topaz.

"I also own bracelets by Marla Tañada. She exports these. You can get them in all colors of leather, all sizes and lengths. She also has chokers, belts, anything you want. She exports mostly to the States. I like them because they look good with both casual and formal attire."

BOOKS

"I know everybody has read 'The Da Vinci Code.' *Kaya lang* I'm still reading it. I really should have more time to read, but lately, when I get to bed I'm already so tired. I like reading when I travel. I always take books with me to the beach. What's sad is that I only get to read a couple of pages at a time. Its so hard when you pick it up again because you've forgotten all the clues. I like the book because it's an easy read, and I've been to a lot of the places that [Dan Brown] describes. I stayed in a hotel right opposite the church in San Sulpice. I know the Louvre Museum very well. It's always nice to read something that you have some familiarity with."

SARONGS

"I have sarongs that I bought from the Maldives, from Bali, Thailand and Malaysia. I collect them because they are beachwear basics. I love tanning. You could cover your body with sarong, you could also use this if you want to lie on the beach."

EYEGLASSES

"Every year, I buy a pair of Gucci shades. I got my newest pair in London. Oh my God! I just realized that I'm missing a screw! Never mind. I tend to wear this forever, too. I even wear it at nighttime or if I don't have time to wear makeup. I like shades that are not too dark, so I can wear them at night. It's a bit pretentious but, hey, I don't care. I'm old enough not to care."

(Pinky will be seen on GMA 7's newest soap series, "Engkantadia," where she plays a scheming mother to lead actor Mark Herras. Also starring in the series are Dingdong Dantes, Karylle and Jennylyn Mercado.)

"Sisters, ka-join tayo d'yan!"
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ELSE WHERE

Disturbing call

SANTA MARIA, California—A comedian who befriended Michael Jackson's young accuser said early this week that in early 2003 she got a "very disturbing" phone call from the boy's frightened mother that sounded as if she and her children were being held against their will. Louise Palanker, who gave the family $20,000 while the boy was being treated for cancer, told jurors that she received the call days after a damaging television documentary about Jackson was broadcast in February of 2003.

'Direk' Affleck

LOS ANGELES—He hit it big as a screenwriter, rose and fell as an actor, and even dabbled in presidential politics. Now Ben Affleck is trying to fit in the director's chair. The actor who won an Oscar for co-writing 1997's "Good Will Hunting" with his buddy Matt Damon, has signed up to direct a movie titled "Gone, Baby, Gone" for The Walt Disney Co.'s Touchstone Pictures, a Disney spokesperson announced.

Joss for Gap

LONDON—British soul singer Joss Stone and her music will be featured in new advertising for Gap Inc. as the retailer replaces "Sex and the City" star Sarah Jessica Parker for its summer advertising campaign. Gap said late on Monday it would use models and Stone to sell its white denim line.

Tuning out

LOS ANGELES—Jennifer Aniston's next movie is called "The Breakup," but she gave no details about her own personal life in her first interview since her highly publicized split from actor-husband Brad Pitt in January. "There is always going to be the tough and the nasty," Aniston told syndicated TV show Access Hollywood, referring to rumors and tabloid reports surrounding the Hollywood couple's surprise separation. "You just tune out to that."

Over-reaction

LOS ANGELES—Most Americans favor tougher regulation of sex and violence on TV, though a bigger majority thinks the government over-reacted to Janet Jackson's breast-baring Super Bowl performance last year, according to a Time magazine poll. The survey, published with this week's Time cover story, suggests the public is conflicted about government control over what Americans can watch on television.

Reuters

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Sunday BIZ

AS first communicant in the '30s

'Use the force of your opponent against him'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HE was a precocious boy who got kicked out of school when he was seven years old.

But he is one of the rare breed who did not rely on name and family to help him succeed in life.

FIRST JOB

Newly appointed member of the Monetary Board (the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) Raul A. Boncan Sr. recalls on his first day at the Ateneo, then on Padre Faura St. in Manila, he got kicked out because he joined some people playing pool and he hit one of them.

His parents then placed him in Letran where he spent his elementary years.

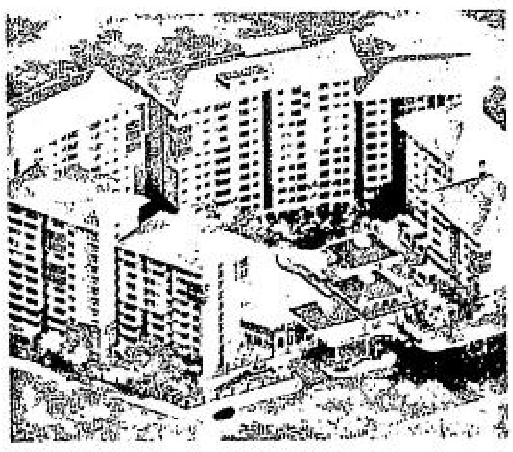
Boncan's childhood days were filled with fun and comfort. During those times Catholic school declared Thursday and Sundays as holidays so the days were spent with his cousins in their grandparents' huge house in San Miguel at the foot of Ayala bridge on the corner of Echague St. The house was right by the Pasig River

USE/ B2

RAUL A. BONCAN Sr., Monetary Board member

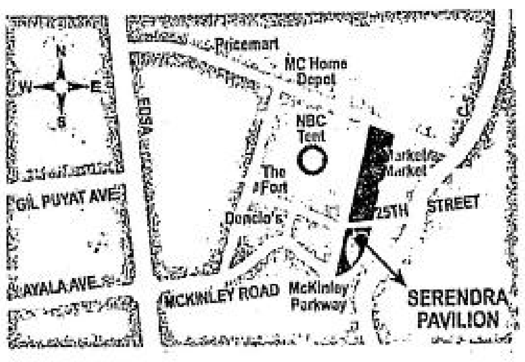
65% green. 100% home.

HOME, GREEN, HOME



The concrete jungle can be an unforgiving habitat. But with Serendra, a low-density residential project jointly developed by Community Innovations, Inc. and Ayala Land, Inc., the green, green grass of home no longer has to be confined to the city limits. With over 65% of its 12 hectares dedicated to greenery, Serendra radiates a freshness more commonly associated with the suburbs. Located in the Bonifacio Global City, it is less than 5 minutes away from the central business district of Makati. Coupled with residential units that feature the marriage of Filipino warmth with European masterplanning, an extensive list of amenities and facilities is tirelessly maintained by the Ayala Property Management Corporation. Serendra offers families more than just room to grow. It also gives them time to be together. And being together is what homes are all about.

Email serendra@ayalaland.com.ph
or visit www.serendra.com
Model units are available for viewing at the Serendra Pavilion, 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City, everyday from 9am to 8pm.
HLURB LTS Nos: 10412, 10464 and 10482



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Serendra
An AYALA Community

65% greenery also means only 35% of the property is available for residence (less in fact, since more reservations are being made as you read this.) Contact or visit us and make a reservation today. Call us at 848-5000 or 888-0000. Not doing so might leave you 120% sorry.

Use the force of your opponent . . .

From page B1

(when it was still clean).

Ancestors

Boncan's great grandfather (mother's grandfather) Lim Cong Jap was into trading—a business his grandfather, Mariano Limjap, inherited and expanded into other businesses. Mariano, based on the book titled House of Limjap compiled by Boncan, was involved in various ventures including as director of the Bank of the Philippine Islands in 1907, rice plantations and rice mills, and investments in La Perla Tobacco Company, the Philippine Tannery, Manila Jockey Club and Tayabas Sawmill Co.

Mariano was believed to have been a supporter of Dr. Jose Rizal, the country's national hero, being one of the financiers of La Liga Filipina, an organization set up by Rizal, to initiate reforms during the Spanish regime.

Because of this involvment, Mariano and his brother Jacinto were arrested and held in prison in Fort Santiago. After their release, Mariano's businesses continued to prosper and his children and grandchildren enjoyed comfortable lives. He died in 1926, two years before Boncan was born.

It was Mariano's wife, Maria Escobar Cochay or Lola Angoy, who was running the household during Boncan's childhood.

Boncan's mom, Felisa, married Marcelo T. Boncan, a judge and later on a member of Congress.

When the Japanese came, Boncan's happy days at the big house stopped. The family evacuated to Montalban.

The house in San Miguel was used as a headquarters and shipyard by the Japanese, who burned it when they left.

First job

After the war, Boncan went back to school—San Beda College. It was during this time that he had his first job—as a conductor of a "jitney." He explains that a jitney was a "car that was cut and seats were added"—a predecessor of the jeepney. A cousin owned Golden Taxi, which was confiscated by the Japanese. But after the war they recovered two cabs which they converted into a jitney and plied the Quiapo to Libertad route.

Boncan says he was a conductor in the morning and studied in the afternoon. He walked from Quiapo to San Beda.

WITH his dad, Marcelo

BONCAN's maternal grandfather Mariano Limjap

FIGHTING a 200 lb, 6'7" Dutch

In 1946 however, his father had to go to the US for medical treatment for a shrapnel wound he got during the war. Boncan and his two sisters followed with relatives and cousins. At that time since the Philippines was a colony of the US, all Filipinos had American passports.

Boncan says his father "always wanted me in school" so while the family was in San Francisco for Marcelo Boncan's medical treatment, he attended courses at the University of San Francisco for a couple of months.

The family eventually moved to LA where Marcelo was appointed consul of the newly set up Philippine office. Boncan attended the University of Southern California and got pre-law credits.

Bus boy

Despite his opulent background, Boncan had no qualms doing menial tasks to earn money. He worked as a bus boy in the school cafeteria. His pay was not enough for his nights out so he also delivered telephone books. The ad he responded to asked for young men with cars because the books were heavy. But the pay was good—$5 a day.

During those times, $5 was enough cash to go to the best nightclubs in town (where the stars went). A steak dinner cost $1.25.

He says he used his father's car and would hang out with the likes of the late Geny Lopez who was then going to a military academy. Delivering telephone books was not a daily job and sometimes he worked weekends.

But his fun life was cut short when his father died of a heart attack in 1948. He was 58—the same age Boncan says he himself had a heart bypass operation.

His father's body was placed in a morgue for three months as the family had to prepare to go back to Manila.

Law school

They came home in September 1948 and by that time he was late for law school at the Ateneo. So he enrolled in the University of Sto. Tomas, for second semester, first year law. The following year he moved to Ateneo. He had to take the first semester courses he missed during summers such that "I had two sets of classmates for four years in two schools."

Boncan and several of his batchmates were recruited by Miguel Cuaderno, then a special assistant to Central Bank Governor Gregorio Licaros to join the CB in 1952.

Boncan, who landed 17th in the bar exams was with Gabriel Singson, who was second place. (Singson later on became governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.) Boncan's first formal job was as senior trade control investigator with a monthly pay of P355.

He only had a salary increase to P422 three years later. He stayed six years in CB.

From CB he spent five years as director of the Quezon City Dev't. Corp. But his longer stint was with the Philippine Standard, then the country's largest maker of sanitary wares. He started as plant office manager then became managing director.

Boncan's resume carries an impressive list of organizations he co-founded—Aquila Legis Fraternity, Philpppine Amateur Judo Association, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Philippine Exporters Foundations Inc.

FELISA and Marcelo Boncan with two of their three children.

He was involved in the merger of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which he co-founded in 1978 and the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines. He found out later on, his grandfather, Mariano Limjap was a founder of the Chamber of Commerce in 1903.

Boncan's life reached a turning point when he joined government as undersecretary of trade and industry in 1988. He was the country's chief trade negotiator and at one time, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who headed the Garments and Textile Export Board, was under him.

Work ethics

With government he was able to maximize two principles he has used throughout his career.

Boncan, now 77, has been adopting the work ethic he learned from Licaros.

"He was very thorough and hard-working. He never left any paper on his table at night. At night he would leave at 7:30 or 8 to have dinner then come back at 9. He would go home at midnight. The papers we sent to him in the morning would be back in the evening. And what you send in the afternoon would be back in the morning. So you had to catch up."

The second principle is that of judo, which Boncan considers a way of life. He learned the martial art late in life but still did well. At 30, he was a member of the Philippine Team and participated in the 2nd World Judo Championship in Japan.

Boncan, who stands about 5'3" competed against a 200-pound, 6'7" Dutch. A judo teacher told him he would only last 30 seconds in the ring but he put up a good fight lasting three minutes and attacking 30 times.

"The principle of judo is to use the force of your opponent against him. If he pulls you, you push him. For his five units of strength use two. You're like a bamboo who bends with the wind. Don't fight the wind's strength."

Boncan says he has been using principles in his business and work ethics for over 50 years.

But whether it was age or the level of work, government work took a toll on his body. He would work till one or two in the morning everyday finishing the voluminous paper work in DTI.

"The doctor said if I maintained that pace I would not die tomorrow but the quality of my life will be affected," he recalled.

He resigned after four years with DTI.

But Boncan still did not stop working. During the past 20 years he has been involved in various industries like the Amalgamated Dev't. Corp., Makati Finance Corp., 6805 Ayala Ave. CondominiumCorp., Asiatrust Bank, HCG, FLB Development Corp. And now the MB. And he still makes sure no work is left on his table.

BONCAN (2nd from right) with his children and grandchildren in Boracay.

PRULINK PRU LIFE U.K.

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week March 22, 2005	Last Week March 15, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.22278	1.22225
Managed Fund - Peso	1.34604	1.35546
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0895	1.0919

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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VIEWING DATES: MARCH 28 & 29, 2005, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
LOCATION: ROAD 1 & ROAD 32, PROJECT 6, Q. C., NEAR VISAYAS AVE.
'97 MITZ GALANT; '92 FORD EXPLORER SUV; '90 NISSAN TERRANO; (2,500) BOTTLES TOLLESE VINO DA TAVOLA (ROSSO) ITALIA; STAINLESS CHILLER; SS PREPARATION TABLES; SS PREPARATION TABLE W/ SINK; STOVE; FREEZER; REFRIGERATORS; KITCHEN UTENSILS; GLASSWARE; TABLES & CHAIRS; AMPLIFIERS; COMPONENT; SPEAKER SYSTEM; PIANO / ORGAN; GUITAR; BEERS; SOFTDRINKS; BILLIARD TABLES; 2-DOOR STAINLESS CHILLER; LPG TANKS; SS BBQ GRILL; WINDOW TYPE AIRCON; S/S PLATE DISPENSER; NARRA UNIQUE FURNITURE; PAINTINGS; WALL DÉCOR; BIG GLASS AQUARIUM; GENERATOR; WATER TANK; GLASSWARE; PUNCH BOWL; AND MANY MORE
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1.0MM - 4,999,999	5.500	5.750	5.875	6.000
5.0MM - 9,999,999	5.750	6.000	6.125	6.250
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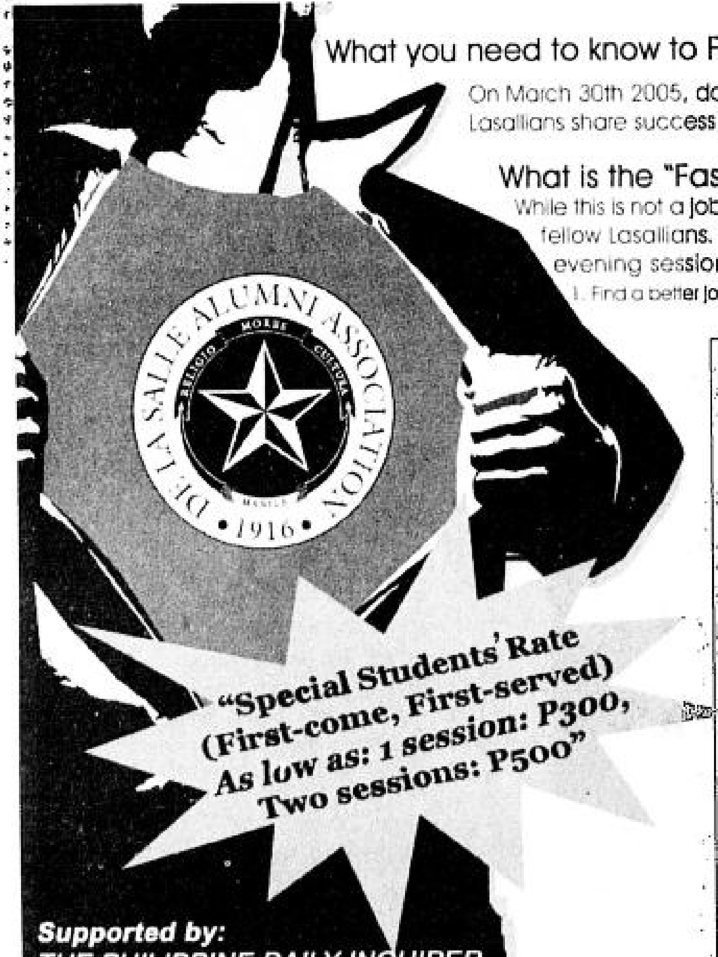

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On March 30th 2005, don't miss the opportunity to hear distinguished Lasallians share success factors to getting ahead in your career.
What is the "Fast Track Career Forum" all about?
While this is not a job fair, you may use this forum to network with fellow Lasallians. You have a choice of an afternoon or an evening session to exchange views on what it takes to:
1. Find a better job 2. Get a promotion. 3. Have a successful second career.

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS*
Afternoon Session
(Start: 1:30pm End: 4:30pm)
1. Lito Tanjuatco, President - DLSAA
2. Br. Armin A. Luistro, FSC President - DLSU. "Forum Opening Remarks"
3. Rene J. Buenaventura, CEO - Equitable PCIB. Keynote Speaker
4. Ramon Isberto, Head Public Affairs - Smart. "Communicate Effectively or Be Left Behind"
5. Juan Miguel del Rosario, VP HR - Uni. Pulp and Paper Co. Inc., "Have Emotional Intelligence, Have a Great Career"
6. Franz Pumaren, Basketball Coach - DLSU. "Down but Not Out: Career Applications from the 2004 DLSU Basketball Championship Team"
Evening Session
(Start: 5:00 pm End: 8:00 pm)
1. Dr. Carmelita I. Quebengco, EVP - DLSU. "Opening Remarks"
2. Franco del Rosario, CEO - 6Sigma Consulting. "The Single Biggest Thing That Can Help or Hinder Your Career"
3. James Motti, CEO Ayala AON, "It is the Minor Details which Lead to the Major League!"
4. Gerard Sanvictores, SGV Partner, "The 3 Musts Executives Look For In Candidates"
5. Boy Martinez, Head Per. Comm. & Mob. Services Smart, "The Fastest Way To Become The Chief Marketing Officer"
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HOSTED BY: Liberal Arts Chapter De La Salle Alumni Association (DLSAA)
WHEN: Wednesday, March 30, 2005
WHERE: Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, de la Costa corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
REGISTRATION DETAILS:
1. Early Bird Rate (payment no later than March 23rd): P600.00 per person per session. An additional P100.00 per person per session discount for group registrations (minimum of 4 persons).
2. Regular rate: P800.00 per person per session.
3. Pay into Standard Chartered Bank Acct No. 0132563148001: Account Name: De La Salle Alumni Association - Liberal Arts Chapter
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FAX THIS TO 809-8074 EVEN IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND! YOU WILL BE ADVISED OF FUTURE DLSAA ACTIVITIES.
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E-MAIL: francodelrosario@hotmail.com
*We welcome La Salle alumni interested to be speakers in future career forums. Please e-mail or fax your bio-data to the above contact information.

New promotional pricing for money transfers within RP

WESTERN Union Financial Services Inc., a worldwide leader in money transfer services, announced the launch of low prices for money transfer transactions within the Philippines.

Starting from March 15 and ending on May 31, 2005, the cost of sending money within the Philippines up to P75,000 are set per band, as seen in the chart below.

For money transfer transaction up to P500, the service fee is only P48.

Transfer amount in Philippine Western Union service fees between March 15 till May 31, 2005

P1-P500	P48
P501-P1,000	P68
P1,001-P1,500	P128
P1,501-P2,000	P138
P2,001-P2,500	P168
P2,501-P3,000	P198
P3,001-P4,000	P248
P4,001-P5,000	P288
P5,001-P6,000	P308
P6,001-P7,000	P338
P7,001-P10,000	P408
P10,001-P15,000	P608
P15,001-P25,000	P688
P25,001-P75,000	P808

During the summer months, consumers often send money to loved ones to celebrate such occasions as graduations, fiestas and harvests or to assist with the cost of vacations, construction or repainting.

Western Union designed this pricing promotion to help them stretch their money even further.

Menchi Orlina, vice president of Western Union Services Philippines and APAC Inbound said, "The promotional pricing is Western Union's way of rewarding its loyal customers, as well as introducing new customers to the benefits of our money transfer service. We know our customers work hard for their money and believe they will appreciate the value of this promotional pricing. At the same time, our new customers will come to know and appreciate us for the speed, reliability and convenience offered by the Western Union Money Transfer service."

Western Union, a multinational company, with Agent locations worldwide, has been offering its money transfer service in the Philippines for 10 years.

Western Union offers its customers convenience. Western Union has more than 6,500 agent locations all over the country and consumers can retrieve funds at whichever branch is most convenient to them.

Send resumés instantly
JOB

For P100,000 Downpayment*
and 48 months to pay

P18,777
ADVENTURE GLS Sport Diesel*

P16,555
ADVENTURE GLX Diesel*

P17,111
LANCER 1.6 GLS CVT*

P15,555
LANCER 1.6 GLX M/T*

P13,222
L300 FB Dual A/C*

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Own a Lancer, Adventure or L300 FB for only P100,000 Downpayment* through the Mitsubishi Lucky Deals.

Also check out our low down and low monthly payment plans.

Model	SRP	Downpayment	36 mos	60 mos	72 mos
LANCER 1.6 GLX M/T	698,000	102,600	18,587	13,000	11,824
LANCER 1.6 GLS CVT	758,000	106,600	20,185	14,118	12,840
LANCER 1.6 MX CVT	838,000	120,600	22,315	15,608	14,195
ADVENTURE GLX DSL (9 seater)	740,000	115,000	19,706	13,782	12,535
ADVENTURE GLS SPORT GAS M/T	795,000	139,000	21,170	14,807	13,467
ADVENTURE GLS SPORT DSL	805,000	141,000	21,436	14,993	13,636
ADVENTURE GRAND SPORT DSL	935,000	152,000	24,898	17,414	15,839

• Also available GLX 5-seater and 7-seater models

*For low monthly plans • All financing plans subject to bank approval

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Couple's success secret: Be out to change the rules

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

ROLANDO de Veyra knew early on in his working life that he was not cut out to be a mere employee. He did try, however, to be a good one.

The Agriculture graduate of the University of Southern Mindanao went the rounds of the hospitals, clinics and drugstores of Bukidnon and Iligan from his base in Cagayan de Oro from 1984-1985, selling pharmaceutical products. And he made quite a few sales.

But De Veyra soon realized it took too much effort to meet monthly sales quotas for somebody else. If he had to work so hard, then he might as well work for myself, he thought.

Work hard, he did.

And for his efforts, he and his wife, Fe, now operate RDV Food Industries, one of the biggest dried fish production outfits in Zamboanga City, which has grand plans to export dried *tamban* and *galunggong* to the United States and Australia.

The idea to venture into fish trading came to him in 1986 at the Pagadian wharf, while waiting for a pump boat to take him to Cotabato, where his wife used to work.

"I saw the huge volume of the fish coming from Jolo and other places further south being delivered to Pagadian. There were also a lot of traders there, so I thought of trying it out myself," the 46-year-old De Veyra tells SundayBiz.

He started with just 18 kilos of dried fish, which he sold in Cotabato. It was then that his experience in the pharmaceutical industry came in handy.

Just like when he was selling medicine, he went from house to house in Catabato, Pagadian and later in Tagum to sell his dried fish.

Zamboanga move

The profit margin was so good that from just 18 kilos, De Veyra's volume went up to 6,000 kilos by 1994. It was also then that he and his wife decided to move to Zamboanga City, and do the groundwork to further expand their business.

ROLANDO and Fe de Veyra

ROLANDO with vacuum-packed dried fish

RDV Industries employees prepare dried fish products

De Veyra says Zamboanga is the best place to set up a fish trade operation, as the city's ports corner 70 percent of the country's dried fish trade.

"I really studied the industry. I went to different areas like Cebu and Palawan. But I found out that Zamboanga had the best sources of fish, so we moved here," De Veyra says.

The years were good to RDV Food Industries, and Rolando and Fe were content seeing their volume grow to 250 *baneras* containing 40 kg of fish each.

Rolando took care of the marketing and purchasing side of the business, while Fe handled operations.

Fate, however, had other plans for the husband-and-wife team.

Big break

The De Veyras' big break came in 2001 when the city representative from the Department of Trade and Industry came knocking on their door, asking them if they wanted to exhibit their dried fish during a trade fair.

But more than just being an exhibitor, the DTI wanted the De Veyras' to be its partner in further developing dried fish products to meet world-class food standards.

RDV Food Industries, at that time, was just simply buying and selling fish that came in through the Zamboanga ports. But the De Veyras grabbed at the opportunity to take their business to the next level.

Rolando and Fe worked closely with the DTI and the Department of Science and Technology to improve quality processes to produce dried fish that was high on taste, but low on the salt.

They also worked on the proper packaging materials so that the dried fish can pass the strict trade standards, not just in Manila, but abroad.

They also trained in Japan and Thailand to know more about the ways to improve their craft and their products.

By 2003, they hired their quality control people and they made the major investment in the upgrade of the processing facilities.

Fe says her husband was reluctant to invest millions in the upgrade of the facility because no one else was doing it in Zamboanga City.

"But I believed in it so much that I went ahead and built the factory in the three months that he was in Luzon to look at mango production. By the time that he came back, it was already there. It was too late for him to change his mind," Fe says.

"I just prayed that we will not lose all our money," Rolando adds.

The gamble paid off as RDV Food Industries' factory is now the best in its class, with solar dryers to bring the fishes' moisture level low enough to meet export standards, and a production area where no pests can enter.

"People used to laugh at us because our workers had boots, and aprons and caps. We had all these quality control procedures that no one ever heard of before. But we persevered because we really want to go into export," Fe says.

Rolando adds that he and his wife also looked at their moves as a way of contributing to the improvement of the entire Zamboanga fish trade.

"It is a very old industry here, but no one really studied it. We are a kind of a guinea pig in the effort to bring up the fish industry. It is our way of giving back to the industry that has been so good to us," says Rolando, who also sits as president of the Chamber of the Dried Fish Industry in Zamboanga.

Rolando says he never imagined the company to grow as big as it has.

But looking back, he says he and his wife were able to make it grow because of their ideal working relationship, which is a fruit of their long relationship that dates back to their college days.

"When we brainstorm, we work on different ideas. Then the best idea for the business wins. Pride does not get in the way," he says.

Fe adds that it pays to be unconventional, and be bold enough to do what has not been done before.

"In business, you must always be out to change the rules," Fe says.

She quit her job and gave in to Domesticity

By Fran Katigbak

AFTER leaving her job of five years, Mariel Lacson San Agustin discovered it is possible to pursue a career even without the security of a regular paycheck.

The Ateneo graduate used to work at a Manila-based home retail store that sold imported and locally sourced furniture and home accessories.

Having an eye for style, she enjoyed the creative aspect of her job which involved choosing items the store will sell.

As she rose through the ranks, however, her creativity had to be set aside to give room for management and administrative functions.

In 2002, San Agustin decided to open her own business, Domesticity, a line of gift and home accessories that she herself designs.

"I was scared," admits the 29-year-old of her beginnings. "Working for five years in a company gives a lot of inhibitions."

But she was motivated by the resolve to make it on her own and have her products penetrate retail stores.

Going back to her roots in Negros Occidental, San Agustin found materials for her designs and a home for the factory, one of several farmlands owned by the Lacsons, at San Carlos City.

With a capital of less than six figures, she first launched the bathroom line, and then expanded to storage.

LAVENDER Massage Oil in pandan box, one of the products in the Christmas line that sold well

The name Domesticity, says San Agustin, referred to a movement decades ago on women who provided a place of refuge and solitude for their families.

"Through my designs which are very spa- and resort-like, I wanted to exhibit that certain lifestyle, an atmosphere of leisure and isolation," she says.

Her employees, mostly wives of sugarcane farmers, initially avoided the seminars that taught weaving basics for Domesticity.

Life in the farm is not only laidback, San Agustin explains. The women were also used to staying home and taking care of the kids while the husbands worked the fields.

"All their lives, they were exposed to one thing—sugarcane farming," she adds. "I think resistance is common behavior if you introduce something new."

She started with just eight employees until word spread in the farm's small community that business was growing productive.

Working in the factory became an alternative means of earning money, especially during the transition period between planting and harvesting seasons.

Since the farmer-husbands have no work while the sugarcane grow, the wives at the factory are the ones bringing in extra income for their families.

DOMESTICITY'S Negrense work force gives the owner a sense of purpose in running the business.

SAN Agustin

Domesticity now has a stable number of 25 workers, with more employed during the harvest season.

San Agustin was able to expand to paper products such as photo albums and memo pads. She even teamed up with friend Jasmin Montelibano in developing a Christmas line that includes massage oils in pandan-woven boxes.

"My target market was very simple when I started, just friends and family," says the designer-entrepreneur.

Yet as of last year, Domesticity has increased its performance by 100 percent. Sales have grown to several hundred items from the few dozens it first sold in 2002.

BANGALORE Storage Collection, mat woven pandan boxes with hand-painted ceramics and tassels

Products are now distributed in Bacolod, in bazaars, home stores and hotels in Manila, and in leading resorts and spas in Cebu and Palawan.

Occasionally, San Agustin would meet traders who source out Domesticity products, among other local goods, which would be sent abroad.

Being a member of the Association of Negros Producers (ANP), she says, has helped Domesticity improve in terms of production, marketing and design.

ANP represents almost all manufacturers from the different sectors in Negros Occidental.

It assembles in-house promotions for Negrense products and hosts the yearly Negros Trade Fair in Manila, the 2005 edition of which will be held on Sept. 23 to Oct. 2 at the Market! Market! in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Despite Domesticity's affiliations, San Agustin believes passion and purpose are the best tools in the business.

"Start a business with something that you enjoy doing," she shares.

"Have passion for your business because if you love what you're doing, the problems that arise won't seem like problems at all."

Having a sense of purpose is equally important for San Agustin.

A good entrepreneur, she says, should maintain social and ethical conscience, especially where employees are concerned.

"I find gratification in my work knowing that I am able to help underprivileged Negrenses," says San Agustin, who also taps into the San Carlos City jail for inmates who want to provide for their families even behind bars.

She collaborates with the leader of the city jail's program in choosing skilled prisoners who can work for Domesticity.

"I'm constantly looking for people," she says. "I'm in the process of searching for women's communities around the San Carlos area as well."

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Buko drink yields fruitful 10 years

WHEN Lipa Fresh Buko Juice was first introduced in the Philippines in 1995, its producers' main goal was to offer an alternative beverage to consumers leading active lifestyles. After 10 years, Lipa Fresh is reaping a rewarding harvest. It was honored by the National Shoppers' Choice Annual Awards (NSCAA) as 2004's "No.1 Health Juice Drink." Another tri-media awards ceremony recently held at the AFP Theater, spearheaded by the National Consumer Affairs Foundation (NCAF), chose Lipa Fresh as Year-Ender Consumer Excellence Awards' "Top Buko Juice Brand of the Year."

These award-giving bodies recognize consumer products, services, business entities and manufacturers that have given the general public quality merchandise and service. The awards are well-deserved and fitting recognition of the kind of work, product quality and commitment in each Lipa Fresh bottle.

"We do our best to provide value for their hard-earned money by providing a pure and natural health drink," says Kathleen Say, VP for Sales and Marketing of Fruits of Life Inc., the manufacturing company of Lipa Fresh. To cope with the demands of their clients, Lipa Fresh has enhanced its manufacturing facilities and even ventured into seasonal variants.

The company is also currently working closely with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) in establishing the benchmark for all buko juice in the country and hopes to get the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) accreditation to further boost the standards of buko juice.

Lipa Fresh is available in convenient 500 ml PET bottles and Re:Fresh 'Buko Juice in 12 oz. leak-proof cups. Packed with natural electrolytes, potassium, fiber and calcium, it replenishes lost electrolytes during exhausting activities. Health-wise, it is rich in Vit B1 (Thiamine), some amounts of protein, and boasts of low sodium level which may help reduce urinary infection, kidney stones, intestinal parasites and malnutrition while helping prevent intestinal cancer, melanoma and battles blood clot.

Lipa Fresh Buko Juice is available at all Pan de Manila outlets, select restaurants, convenient stores, badminton, golf and other sports establishments. For more info, visit www.lipabuko.com

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Customs District XIII
Port of Subic
Olongapo City

NOTICE OF AUCTION/NEGOTIABLE SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, in correlation with CAO 5-90 as implemented by CMO 5-2003 dated 17 March 2003, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION and NEGOTIATED SALE on 07 April 2005 from 2:30 P.M. until terminated at Bldg. 303, Customs Clearance Area, Kalaklan Gate, Port of Subic of the hereunder listed lots. Said lots will be available for viewing on April 5 & 6, 2005. For further inquiry/particulars, please call the Office of the District Collector at Tel. No.(047)252-3534of the Chief Auction and Cargo Disposal Unit at Tel. No. (047) 252-46-96.

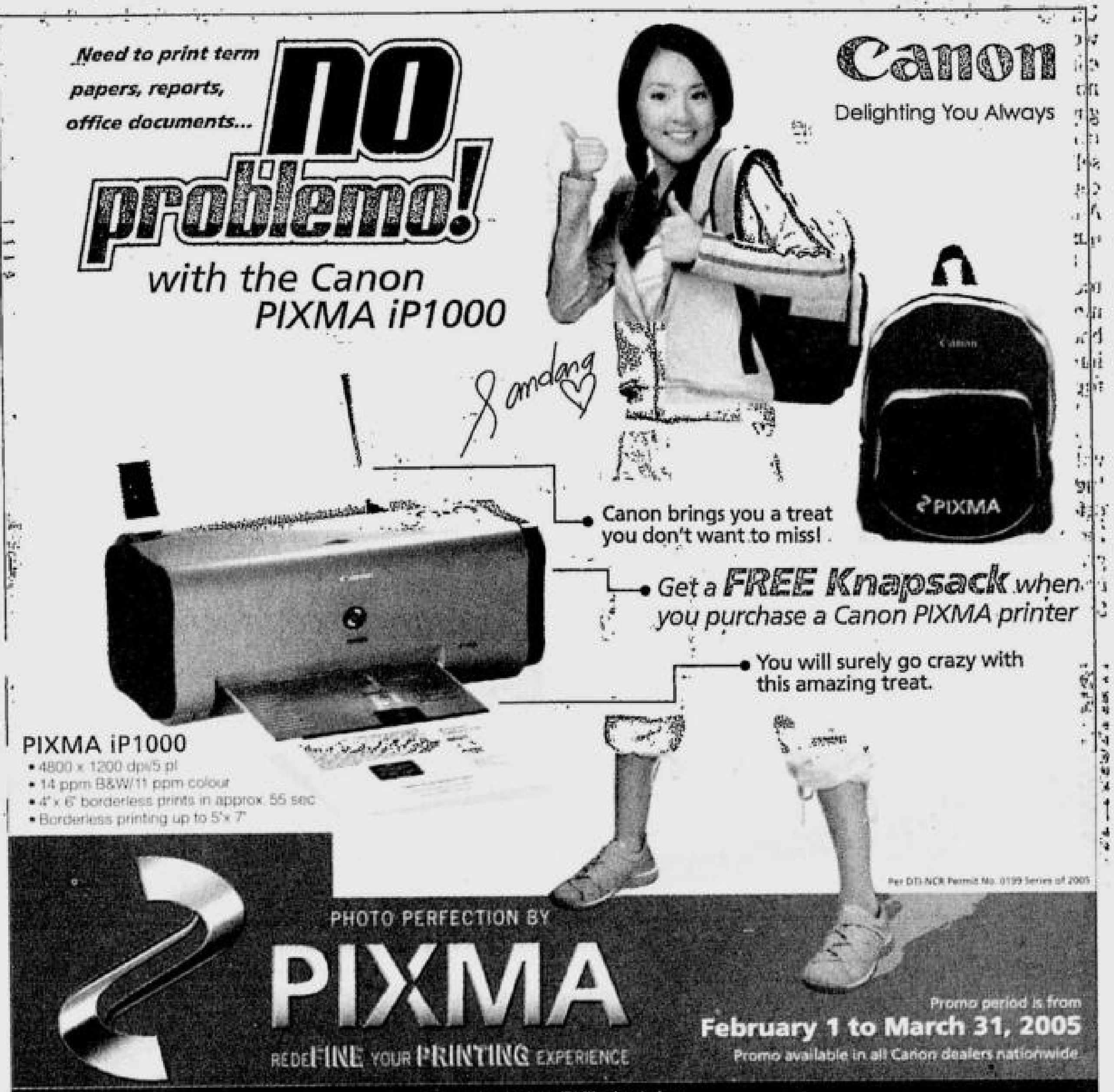
PUBLIC AUCTION

Sale Lot No. 01-05 Consignee: DAPYONG TRADING D.A. Dated 7 January 2005 Floor Price: P245,004.00	One (1) Unit Used HYUNDAI Granduer 1987 Model Color Black Chasis No. KMHNF21FPKU015611 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD
Sale Lot No. 02-05 Consignee: DAPYONG TRADING D.A. Dated 7 January 2005 Floor Price: P361.926.00	One (1) Unit Used HYUNDAI Sonata 1990 Model Color Blue Chasis No. KMHBF2110PNU389655 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD
Sale Lot No. 03-05 Consignee: DAPYONG TRADING D.A. Dated 7 January 2005 Floor Price: P467,383.00	One (1) Unit Used HYUNDAI Sonata Gold 1991 Model Color Black Chasis No. KMHBF31FPMU367698 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD
Sale Lot No. 04-05 Consignee: DAPYONG TRADING D.A. Dated 7 January 2005 Floor Price: P131,668.00	One (1) Unit Used HYUNDAI Sonata 1983 Model Color White Chasis No. KMHCF21DPRUL11481 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD
Sale Lot No. 05-05 Consignee: DAPYONG TRADING D.A. Dated 7 January 2005 Floor Price: P467,383.00	One (1) Unit Used HYUNDAI Sonata 1991 Model Color Blue Chasis No. KMHBF31FPMU372320 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD
Sale Lot No. 06-05 Consignee: DAPYONG TRADING D.A. Dated 7 January 2005 Floor Price: P467,383.00	One (1) Unit Used HYUNDAI Sonata 1991 Model Color Blue Chasis No. KMHBF31FPNU420102 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD
Sale Lot No. 07-05 Consignee: DAPYONG TRADING D.A. Dated 7 January 2005 Floor Price: P361.926.00	One (1) Unit Used HYUNDAI Sonata 1990 Model Color White Chasis No. KMHB21DPNU424221 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD
Sale Lot No. 08-05 Consignee: DAPYONG TRADING D.A. Dated 7 January 2005 Floor Price: P245,004.00	One (1) Unit Used HYUNDAI Granduer 1987 Model Color Gray Chasis No. KMHNF21FPJU008549 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD
Sale Lot No. 09-05 Consignee: FG628 Trading Co. S.S.I. No. 2004-26 Floor Price: P2,513,285.00	One (1) Unit Used KIA Sorrento 2004 Model Color Gray Chasis No. KNAJC52184A296449 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD
Sale Lot No. 10-05 Consignee: FG628 Trading Co. S.S.I. No. 2004-26 Floor Price: P2,513,285.00	One (1) Unit Used KIA Sorrento 2004 Model Color White Chasis No. KNAJC52184A280316 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD
Sale Lot No. 11-05 Consignee: FG628 TRADING CO. S.S.I. No. 2004-26 Floor Price: P2,513,285.00	One (1) Unit REXTON SSANGYON 2004 Model Color Gray Chasis No. KPBFA2AF14P117326 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD
Sale Lot No. 12-05 Consignee: FG628 TRADING CO. S.S.I. No. 2004-26 Floor Price: P2,513,285.00	One (1) Unit REXTON SSANGYON 2004 Model Color Black Chasis No. KPBFA2AF14P116971 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD

NEGOTIATED SALE

Sale Lot No. 04-80 Consignee: ASIA PACIFIC OPERATORS PACIFIC FOUNDATIONS INC. Previous Floor Price: P221,000.00	One (1) Unit Used MERCEDES BENZ 300E Chasis No. ABED7/1 1240261A8277051890 LHD With broken/missing parts "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD
Sale Lot No. 04-47 Consignee: SUBIC ACROPOLIS S.I. No. 2002-21 Previous Floor Price: ~~P305,000.00~~	One (1) Unit Used TOYOTA SURF Chasis No. LN130-011764LHD "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Bldg. 303
Sale Lot No. 04-48 Consignee: SUBIC ACROPOLIS S.I. No. 2002-21 Previous Floor Price: P305,000.00	One (1) Unit Used NISSAN TERRANO Chasis No. WB4-D21-055911LHD "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Bldg. 303
Sale Lot No. 04-52 Consignee: STANDARD EXPRESS A.P. No. 02-06 Previous Floor Price: P179,000.00	One (1) Unit Used HYUNDAI Galloper (Gray) Chasis No. KMXKPICR4132250LHD "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Bldg. 303
Sale Lot No. 04-55 Consignee: GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL S.I. No. 2002-21 Previous Floor Price: P325,000.00	One (1) Unit Used BMW Maroon Series 318i Chasis No. WBAA671040ED69311LHD "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Bldg. 303
Sale Lot No. 04-64 Consignee: GCC LOGISTICS S.I. No. 2002-21 Previous Floor Price: P8,299,766.00	86 cartons Printed Posters (Melawares) 125 pcs./carton 575 cartons Best Wares Plastic Bowls 200 pcs./carton 300 cartons Melawares Casserole Cover 64 pcs./carton 300 cartons Melaware Set with Cover 24 sets./carton 10 cartons Plastics Tumbler 240 pcs./carton "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Old CCA Bldg. 556 SBFZ

Atty. MARIETTA D. ZAMORANOS
District Collector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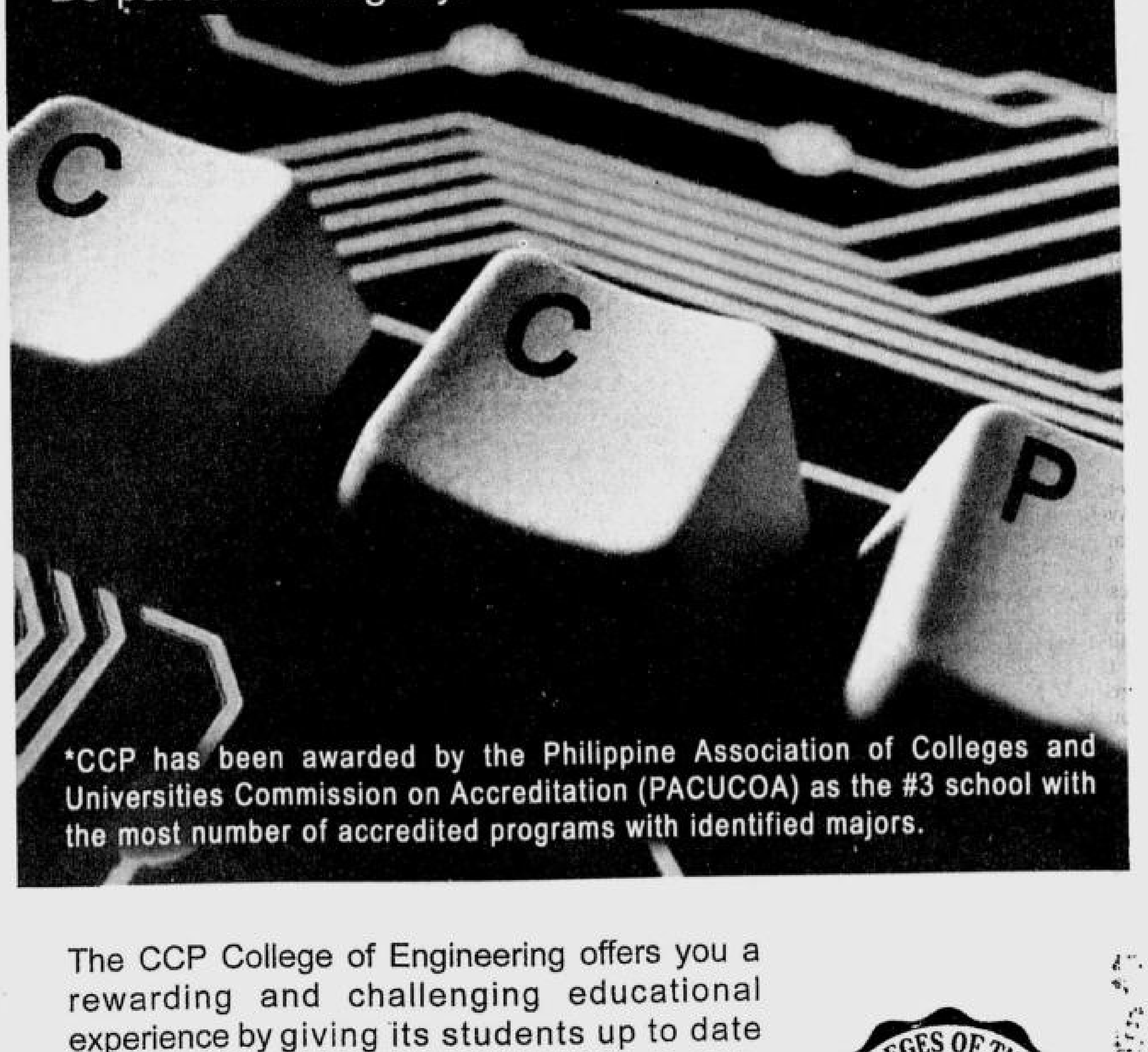
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URGENT REQUIREMENT

ROAD / HIGHWAY DESIGN ENGINEER

(Primary Specialty: Road / Highway Engineering)

Employee Classification Code: **Professional**
Unit and Location: **Design Team - Infrastructure, GEM PMO Davao City**
Person Reporting to: **DPM Infra, CIP/MSIP Task Manager, GEM PMO**
Period of Engagement: **Yearly renewable contract after the 6 mos Probationary Period**

GENERAL PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE POSITION

The Highway/Road Design Engineer will be responsible for all the highway/road design work and design related activities of the Infrastructure Team. He shall be in charge of designing Road and Highway Projects under his Primary Specialty, review the design of other related types of Projects, Records Management and Tracking of Design Progress, Quality Assurance of Designs for each Project and Writing of specifications, plans, procedures and other related operational documents.

DUTIES OF THE POSITION

- Produce the designs and related documents for small and medium scale roads and highway sub-projects.
- Provide inputs to the studies coordinator in the collection of data required for each road / highway subproject during the conduct of the topographic and geotechnical surveys.
- Supervise the CADD Operators in the generation of plans and drawings for the design of road/highway sub-projects
- Resolve any design related issues that may arise in the design development and during the implementation of road/highway sub-projects
- Assists in the quality review of the design and drawings of road/highway related types of sub-projects.
- Sign as the chief designer in all road and highway plans and drawings produced for CIP/MSIP sub-projects.
- Provide inputs for the monthly report on the status of road / highway design activities
- Provide inputs in the Design Groups Quarterly and Annual Reports as needed
- Ensure compliance of all designs to the prescribed Quality Assurance and Quality Control Procedures
- Produce Initial Specifications and Terms of Reference for all needed Pre Engineering Design Surveys and Studies.
- Prepare initial estimates of quantities for the different types of road/highway sub-projects
- Perform other related duties as assigned

Minimum Qualifications: Registered Civil Engineer, minimum ten years experience in road/highway design, data collection, conduct of studies and construction supervision on the type of project considered as the primary specialty. Knowledgeable in the use of AutoCADD, Land development Desktop and other related site development and infrastructure planning design tools. Proficient in oral and written communications.

Preferred Qualifications: Experience in designing Highway and Rural Road projects for multinational institutions such as ADB, World Bank and USAID.

Level of Responsibility: Coordinate with the Design Team Leader and design staff, including both professional and technical support staff, in the preparation of design drawings, specifications, quantity estimates as well as in the data collection for design and construction of road and highway projects. The Highway/Road Designer will also need to coordinate with the other units of the Infrastructure Team and Construction Engineers for proper execution of designs and completion of projects.

Interested individuals are requested to submit original copies of their letter of interest, statement of experience and qualifications and salary history addressed to GEM Contracts Manager to the following address: The Louis Berger Group, Inc. Unit 3, 12th/F, Export Bank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat corner Don Chino Roces Avenues, Makati City 1200. Tel: (02) 812-1647 or fax to GEM Davao office at (082) 225-1479. Deadline of submission is April 8, 2005.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently with Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License to apply for eligibility and if later found eligible, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title : Proposed PICC Project: Package 2a – Rehabilitation of the Fire and Water Damaged Areas of the Delegation Building of the Philippine International Convention Center

Scope of Work : Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed rehabilitation of the fire and water damaged areas of the Delegation Bldg. of the PICC all in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.

Project Location : PICC Complex, Pasay City

Approved Budget for the Contract : P265,464,590.40

Source of Funding : Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Contract Duration : Three hundred forty calendar days (340 cd)

Minimum Eligibility Requirement (Criteria)

PCAB License : IAC Category Large "B" (Buildings and Industrial Plant)

Contractor's Construction Experience : Should have satisfactorily completed within the last five (5) years (2000 to present) at least three (3) projects involving construction/rehabilitation projects of similar Architectural and Engineering (A&E) works one of wich costs not less than ONE HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION PESOS (P150,000,000.00) such as construction / renovation involving architectural (including finishing, plumbing, mechanical and electrical works of commercial or institutional buildings requiring medium to high end finishes and good workmanship (projects may include offices, commercial centers, educational institutions, hotels and other of similar or greater complexity to the BSP's required project).
The contractor's project manager must be a licensed architect or civil engineer with at least ten (10) years experience in construction/rehabilitation with projects of similar nature.

Certification of Satisfactory Performance : Should be able to submit clients' certifications of Satisfactory Performance for (3) of the declared completes similar projects.

Net Financial Concracting Capacity : At least TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY MILLION PESOS (P270,000,000.00) computed as [(Current Assets minus Current Liabilities) (10)] minus the value of all outstanding projects under on-going contracts, including awarded contracts yet to be started)
OR

Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Req't. : TWENTY-SEVEN MILLION PESOS (P27,000,000.00)

Eligibility Statement Forms

Cost of Forms : Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00/set)
Date of Issuance : March 17 to 30, 2005
Deadline of Submission : April 6, 2005
Date of Issuance of Notice of Eligibity/Ineligibility : April 18, 2005

Bid/Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00)
Date of Issuance : April 18, 2005 to April 20, 2005

Pre-Bid Conference
Date and Time : May 10, 2005 / 10:00 AM
Venue : MR2A, 2nd Floor, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sts.

Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bids : June 17, 2005 / 10:00 AM

For inquiries, please call BAC Secretariat – Telephone No. 524-7011 local 3143.

The venue for the issuance and submission of accomplished eligbility statements and bid documents is at the BAC Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor – Five Storey Building, BSP Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sts., Manila, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn & 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Schedule for issuance of notice of eligibity / ineligibity up to submission of bids may be subject to change.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 & its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall apply relative to the bidding and award of contract including its implementation.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractors whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI–March 18 and 27, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE I
Lapu-lapu City
Tel. Nos. 3400590, 3400594, 3400591; Telefax No. 3402949

MEZ-2005-004
Proposed Civil Works on Lot F-1
MEZ I

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, through its MEZ Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Proposed Civil Works Projects on Lot F-1
Location : MEZ I, Lapu-lapu City
Brief Description : Supply of Labor, Materials, Equipment and Supervision for Proposed Site Grading, Concrete Roadwork and Drainage System on Lot F-1 with an area of 27,000 sq. meters more or less.
Approved Budget for the Contract : 14,800,107.13
Contract Duration : 120 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed similar contract with a value at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and own equipment listed below available for the prosecution of the contract:

– Dump Truck	at least 3 units	capacity 20 tonnes
– Tandem Road Roller/Vibratory Roller	at least 2 units	capacity 10 tonnes up
– Road Grader	at least 1 unit	130-200 HP
– Excavator (Breaker/Backhoe)	at least 1 unit	150-200 HP
– Bulldozer	at least 1 unit	150-180 HP
– Wheel Loader	at least 1 unit	125-150 HP

The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	March 17-30, 2005
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	March 17-30, 2005
3.	Receipt of Eligbility Requirements Deadline	March 31, 2005, 5:00 p.m.
4.	Notice of Result of Eligibility Check	April 7, 2005
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	April 8-11, 2005
6.	Pre-bid Conference	April 14, 2005 2:00 p.m.
7.	Receipt & Opening of Bids	April 26, 2005 2:00 p.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at MEZ I BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, PEZA Administration Bldg., MEZ I, Lapu-lapu City upon submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P100.00 to the PEZA Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,000.00 to the PEZA Cashier.

The PEZA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) BELENIA B. LOBITAÑA
MEZ BAC Chairperson

(PDI – March 17 & 27, 2005)

LEYTE III ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO III)

Tunga, Leyte

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Leyte III Electric Cooperative, Inc., invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of various Electric Materials for the first and second quarter for year 2005. Said electrical materials are specified hereunder, are to be delivered at LEYECO III plant site.

Bolt, Carriages 3/8 x 4 1/2" = 100 pcs; Bolt, Machine 5/8 x 10 = 200 pcs; 5/8 x 16" = 100 pcs & ½ x 6"=10 pcs; Bolt, Oval 5/8 x 10=100 pcs; 5/8 x 16=20 pcs & 5/8 x 18" = 23 pcs; Brace Steel 28" = 12 pcs & 60" = 12pcs, Capacitor, 50 & 75 KVAR-MS Brand, GE = 3 units each; Clamp, Hot Line #1/0 = 12 pcs; Strain #4 = 30 pcs; 3 bolt = 100pcs; Loop Dead End # 2-# 4/0 = 100 pcs; Clevis, Secondary Swinging w/o Spool = 50pcs; Connector, Compresion # 1/0 = 30pcs; Cross-Arm 3 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 8" = 6pcs; 3 3/4 x 4 3/4 x 10" = 6pcs & 4" x4"x8", Wood = 50 pcs; Guy, Attachment 5/8 x 16" = 14pcs.; Insulator, Pin Type, 53-A = 200pcs.; Suspension 6" = 100pcs ; Spool 3" = 15pcs.; Fuse Link, 100pcs per rating, 10 A; 15 A; 25 A; 30 A; 40 A; 6 A; 60 A ; 75 A & 8 A; Meter, KWH, 1-Ph 2w,240V, 10(30)A 1,000pcs; Nut. Eye = 30 pcs; Pin, Pole Top 200pcs; Pole, (Wood), 25" = 80pcs.; 30' = 65pcs; 35' = 15pcs; 40" = 5pcs; 45' 6 pcs; Rod, Armor, Double Support 1/0 = 6pcs; Single Support 1/0 = 36pcs; Strap, Steel (wrap type) 8"Diam. = 12pcs; Screw, Log 1/2 x 4" galv.=200pcs; Transformer, 15 kVA, CSP 5 units; 37.5 KVA, Double Bushing = 5 units; & 50 KVA. Double Bushing = 3 units; Wire, Jumper, Aluminum 3-strand = 60 meters; Bolt Carriages 1/2 x 4 1/2" = 100pcs.; Bolt Double Arming 5/8 x 18" = 100 pcs; Bracket Secondary = 50 pcs.

SPECIFIC DATES OF UNDERTAKING

Date of Publication	March 20, 27 & April 02, 2005	
PRE-BID Conference	April 11, 2005 Monday	LEYECO III Conference Room
OPENING OF BIDS QUOTATIONS	April 26, 2005 Tuesday	LEYECO III Conference Room

Mode of Payment

1. Transformer, Capacitor, KWH meters & Poles	Consignment basis 30 days upon withdrawal from warehouse
2. Other Materials	Cash basis

Interested Suppliers to join this bidding are advised to submit accreditation requirements from date of this publication until April 10, 2005 address to the chairman of Accreditation Committee. Eligibility and Bid forms tender documents can be obtained from PBAC Secretariat at LEYECO III OFFICE, upon payment of non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 during the Pre-Bidding conference.

The bids and awards committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defects or formally therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the cooperative.

(Sgd) RODRIGO L. VALLERAMOS
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - March 20, 27 & April 2, 2005)

NORTHERN SAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
NORSAMELCO
Brgy. Magsaysay, Bobon, Northern Samar
MOBILE: (0917) 3619744 • E-mail: norsamelco@yahoo.com • FAX: (055) 251-8163

INVITATION TO A PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE AND SEALED BIDDING

Interested parties are hereby invited to a PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE and SEALED BIDDING for the SUPPLY of the following:

1.	Treated Wood Pole, CCA (Lawaan/Apitong)		
	a. 30 ft/class 4	300	pcs.
	b. 35 ft/class 4	30	pcs.
2.	Conductor Bare ACSR no. 2	63,837	mtrs.
3.	Anchor Log 8" x 4'	150	pcs.
4.	Transformer, Double Bushing, 13.2/7.62kv / 240v with H.V. tap changer, brand new		
	a. 25kva	8	units
	b. 15kva	3	units
5.	Various Pole Line Hardware, Hot Dip Galvanized		

Interested bidders are required to submit a letter of intent with latest company profile before securing bid forms. Bid forms will be issued upon payment of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php1,500.00) non-refundable.

Pre-bid conference is scheduled on March 30, 2005 at 10:00 a.m., NORSAMELCO Conference Room. Only qualified bidders who were present during the pre-qualification conference will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

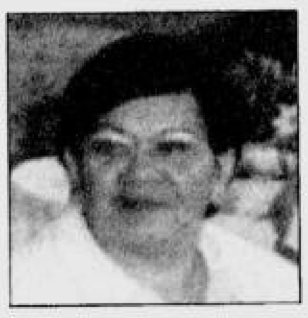
Opening of bids will be on April 07, 2005. Sealed bid must be accompanied by Bid Security equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in an acceptable form.

The Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein, and to accept such bids as may be deemed advantageous to NORSAMELCO.

(Sgd.) RAUL S. RAÑOLA
OIC – General Manager

(PDI – March 24, 27 & 28, 2005)

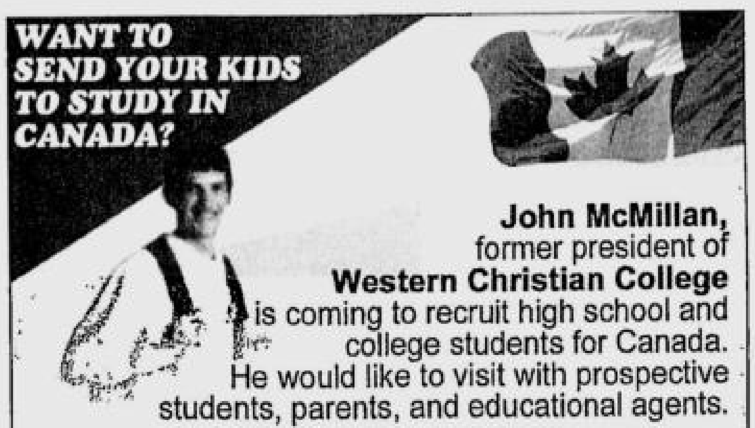
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



CATHERINE A. SUNGA of Blk.3 Lot 22 Cleveland St. Broadway Pines Village Mayamot, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City, whose picture appears above is at large and has pending Warrant for her Arrest issued by the Metropolitan Trial Court, Branch 81 of the City of Valenzuela in connection with the Criminal Case bearing no:69027 filed against her for violation of BP 22.

Please contact Tel.no. (02)294-6461 or (02)294-6462 for any information regarding her whereabouts.

(PDI--March 27, 2005)



WANT TO SEND YOUR KIDS TO STUDY IN CANADA?

John McMillan, former president of **Western Christian College** is coming to recruit high school and college students for Canada. He would like to visit with prospective students, parents, and educational agents.

- * For Manila only
- * Possible partial scholarships and will help with visa documents.
- * Interview on March 28 & 29, 2005, 7:00 p.m. at Makati City Church of Christ., 1598 Archimedes Street, Brgy. Lapaz, Makati City.

For immediate appointment or more information, please contact text 0917-3249380 or email: mpn@mozcom.com
You may also visit **Western Christian College** website at www.westernchristian.ca

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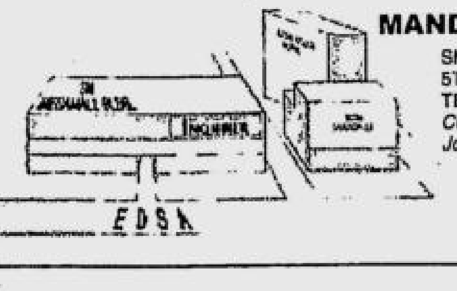
INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Branches are open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.



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ATRIUM OFFICE
GROUND FLOOR, ATRIUM BLDG.,
MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
TEL. NOS. 811-4370 / 811-4361 /
811-4012 / 892-5578
Contact Persons: Emy, Ning & Tin

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Merlinda Ricaforte	Brgy. Agbanawan, Banga, Aklan	Francisco P. Abraham SS # 03-3081949-5	October 23, 2003
2) Erlinda Alvarez	25 Basilio Street, Acasia, Malabon, M.M.	Franny C. Alvarez SS # 03-2773936-8	January 1, 2005
3) Celia Cavitana Barbacena	Sugod, Bacacay, Albay	Ignacio B Barbacena SS # 03-1595321-1	December 29, 2004
4) Enerie Joie Cruz Becares	1156 P. Rosales St., Pateros, M.M.	Noel C. Becares SS # 33-2183815-2	December 1, 2004
5) Antonia Bitas	Matina, Davao City	Antonio Bitas SS # 03-1232457-1	November 27, 2004
6) Juanita Tendencia	Assumption Convert San Lorenzo Drive, Makati, Rizal	Engracio B Buenaobra SS # 03-0126664-0	February 7, 2005
7) Ronilda R. Callope	15 R. J. Rizal St., Abella Comp., M.M.	Erwin A. Callope SS # 03-7262512-6	June 22, 2004
8) Ludivina Zayson Canoy, Lolita, Ludivina & Godofredo Jr.	1021 Dagupan St., Tondo, Manila	Godofredo H. Canoy SS # 03-7023402-7	November 30, 2004
9) Florencia Cayamanda	13-S Victorino St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City	Lope C Cayamanda SS # 03-1667005-6	June 1, 2004
10) Rosita Curay	Unknown	Concordio Curay SS # 09-0556878-6	December 11, 2004
11) Elena Pavilion	Tanzan Luma, Imus, Cavite	Amador Del Rosario, Sr. SS # 03-1456623-0	January 28, 2005
12) Lolita Cabellar	Puerto, Cagayan de Oro City	Estilito Evangelista SS # 08-0421214-6	October 9, 2004
13) Dominciana Baldedara	Talavera, Nueva Ecija	Felipe V. Francisco SS # 33-4210126-6	May 15, 2004
14) Lilia M. Guevarra Antonio M. Guevarra, Jr.	1451 Antipolo St., Sampaloc, Manila	Antonio S. Guevarra SS # 03-2306454-5	July 6, 2004
15) Choi Sun Young	Ph 1 Blk 9 Lot 4 Peza, Rosario, Cavite	Jun Ho Kim SS # 33-5088510-5	February 1, 2004
16) Evelyn Flores	206 Tanzang Luma, Imus, Cavite	Elmar F. Lacson SS # 03-9113336-9	November 20, 2004
17) Corazon Cartativo Mariano	San Mateo, Rizal	Dominador P. Mariano SS # 03-1044303-0	October 11, 2004
18) Hilario Mendez	Malumot, Bacoor, Cavite	Emiliano I. Mendez, Sr. SS # 03-6794003-6	August 27, 2004
19) Almabella Manansala	Unknown	Ricardo C. Mercado SS # 03-1101512-4	January 4, 2005
20) Julieta Abenes Mullet Jovelyn/Babylyn	Australia	Generoso M. Mullet, Jr. SS # 03-5764568-4	January 12, 2005
21) Angelita Hamili Myrna, Edgar & Jesusa	Philips, Bukidnon	Pedro Pidalino SS # 08-0067971-2	February 19, 1992
22) Annaliza S. Rocha	Balintawak, Lipa City	Zaldy R. Quinto SS # 03-7534328-5	December 24, 2004
23) Virginia Cruz	291 Santolan Road, San Juan, M.M.	Teodoro B. Ronquillo SS # 03-0591234-3	June 17, 2004
24) Encarnacion Rosario Abelardo Rosario Luzviminda Rosario	Paniqui, Tarlac	Edmundo R, Rosario SS # 03-2225146-9	November 28, 2004
25) Araceli Mauricio	Tanag St., Antipolo, Rizal	Felimon A. Royol SS # 03-3918459-0	September 28, 2001
26) Iluminada Sacatani	Barrio San Roque, Antipolo, Rizal	Urbano Sacatani SS # 03-1124179-4	January 11, 2005
27) Gervacio Tizon	Unknown	Norma Tizon SS # 33-2939390-3	April 27, 2003
28) Lilia Tuliba	11-B Bonifacio St., Tugatog, Malabon, M.M.	Artemio C. Tuliba SS # 03-1928033-3	February 4, 2005
29) Emilia Aloea Verdaguer	1879-I Gabriel St., Baclaran, Pque, Rizal	Francisco Verdaguer, Jr. SS # 03-2626472-4	October 23, 2004
30) Rebelita R. Zapata	5964 Super Highway, Makati, M.M.	Crisencio Q. Zapata SS # 03-1886536-4	December 2, 2004

(PDI - March 27, 2005)

ACCORD CAPITAL
EQUITIES CORPORATION
Member: Philippine Stock Exchange

ACCORD CAPITAL EQUITIES CORP., a full service stock brokerage firm, is inviting candidates for the following position:

THREE (3) RESEARCH ANALYSTS
Graduate of Economics, Statistics of any business course from reputable schools; with background in economic research preferably knowledgeable in technical and fundamental analysis in the local equities market.

ONE (1) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Graduate of Marketing, Business or any related course.

Can conduct various research works relevant to business expansion and product development in capital market. Able to manage the conceptualization and development of different promotional activities and tools for Sales operations and services

TWO (2) ACCOUNTING & SETTLEMENT ASSISTANTS
Graduate of Accountancy or its equivalent with minimum of 1 year relevant working experience, preferably female with MS Word/Excel literacy. Knowledge in stock brokerage accounting would be an advantage

Interested applicants may personally bring their resume with recent photo to the address below on Mon-Fri 8am to 5pm:

G/F EC-05B East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 687-5071

ST. MARY OF THE WOODS SCHOOL

is accepting applications for the following positions:

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  (Science, English, Computer & Social Studies)
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- **TEACHER-AIDE**

Apply in person or email your resume to:
THE ADMINISTRATOR
1273 Batangas cor. Faraday Sts. San Isidro, Makati City
844-1934 / 729-7674 / 729-7675/ 844-1615
TELEFAX NO. 815-1601
E-mail: stmary@pacific.net.ph * stmary.admin@pacific.net.ph
marcials@pacific.net.ph • Website http://www.smws.edu.ph

BLUE MANILA, INC.
is in need of the following:

ELECTRICIANS for new container vessels of 15,000 grt
- with knowledge in Electronics
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CHIEF MATE for 5,300 grt chemical tanker
- wages/month USD 3,600.00

Please apply at: **Rm. 425 EBC Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila**
Please look for Capt. Albert Rivera or Capt. Jose Mangabat

VSO

Voluntary Service Overseas sends professional, experienced and qualified international volunteers at the request of non-governmental (NGO), governmental and community organisations in the Philippines. 45 professionals in the fields of community-based natural resource management, gender and development, peacebuilding, participation & governance, and disabilities are currently working all over the Philippines.

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Philippines is recruiting a Programme Area Manager (PAM) to implement, supervise, and manage the various components of its peace building work in Northwestern Mindanao. The PAM will be concurrently responsible for the implementation of an EU-funded VSO PEACE Mindanao project.

VSOP's peace building programme revolves around three interrelated and vital components : enhancing understanding and social interaction between Muslims and Christians, building economic resilience among internally displaced peoples (IDP's) and communities, and psycho-social intervention and support to victims of trauma caused by conflict and displacement.

The VSOP peace building PAM will be directly engaged in strengthening the capacity of NGOs, CBOs, and local and national government units in peace building service delivery; in strengthening the accountability of public institutions (executive, legislative, and judicial) and relevant groups such as media, academe, churches, and the corporate sector to the rights of IDPs; and in promoting their welfare and aspirations to other development organizations and institutions, both local and international.

Responsibilities of the PAM post include :

1. Implementing the various components of the peace building programme area plan of VSO Philippines, including managing the EU funded PEACE Mindanao peace building project;
2. Managing the human, material, and financial resources of the PEACE Mindanao project;
3. Leading in volunteer administration and support; and,
4. Maintaining and developing the wider VSOP programme

You will be responsible to the Country Director, VSO Philippines, and part of your duties will be to line-manage three other staff persons. You will be based in Iligan City, Northern Mindanao. Successful applicant must be in post no later than May 1, 2005.

For a full description of the post, please see the VSO webpage: www.geocities.com/vsophilippines

CVs and resumes will not be accepted as applications to this post. Instead, applicants must answer an electronic VSOP application form available at www.geocities.com/vsophilippines PLEASE READ the Guidance Notes on Completing the Application Form carefully before filling up the forms. Previous applicants need not apply.

Please send your completed application form to: vsophilippines@yahoo.com

Deadline for submission : 1200 hrs, APRIL 04, 2005
Interview Date : April 13, 2005

***Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.**

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB Market

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FREE brings forth a special forum entitled

Maximizing Results in Your Recruitment Ads

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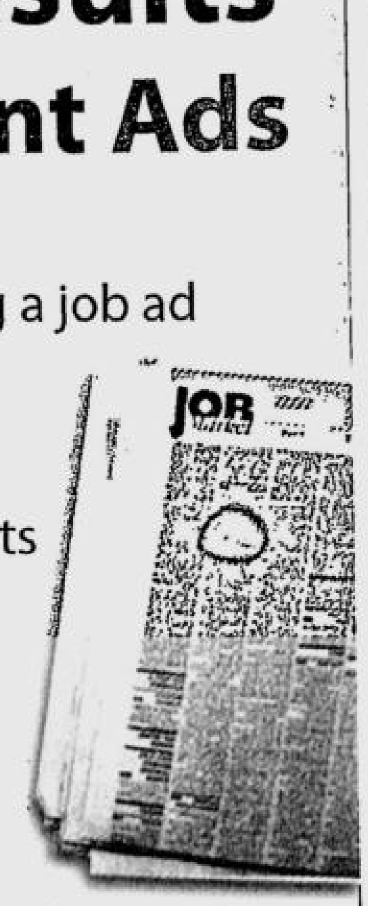

When: April 12, 2005
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Where: Inquirer Main Office
2/F Multi-Purpose Hall

Those who are interested to attend, pls. call any of our Inquirer branches.

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☎ 899-4427 (Direct)
℻ 8978425
e-mail rabacd@inquirer.com.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties on cash or term basis (minimum 30% down payment and 17% interest rate for maximum of 7 years to pay):

Item No.	Description	Location	Minimum/ Floor Price
05-1	42.39 sq.m. residential condominium unit	Unit S-09 New Manila Condominium, N. Domingo St., New Manila, Q.C.	P 630,551.25
05-2	House & Lot, F/A 80 sq.m. L/A 1,026 sq.m.	Bgy. Pinagtung-olan, West District, Lipa City	P 985,000.00
05-3	House & Lot F/A 42 sq.m. L/A 170 sq.m.	B8, L4 Mutual Homes Subdivision Ph-III, Putatan, Muntinlupa City	P 602,140.00
05-4	House & Lot F/A 142 sq.m. L/A 134 sq.m.	B10, L8, Area H, San Rafael, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan	P 346,239.21
05-5	House & Lot F/A 42 sq.m. L/A 198 sq.m.	B12, L3 AFP Village, San Mateo, Rizal	P 318,367.50
05-6	House & Lot F/A 42 sq.m. L/A 198 sq.m.	B16 L17 AFP Village, San Mateo, Rizal	P 287,512.50
05-7	House & Lot L/A 138 sq.m. F/A 143 sq.m.	B7, L3 North Matrixville, Camarin Rd., Caloocan City	P 963,007.50
05-8	House & Lot F/A 42 sq.m. L/A 198 sq.m.	B9, L10 AFP Village, San Mateo, Rizal	P 346,519.80
05-9	House & Lot F/A 618.98 sq.m. L/A 2,607 sq.m.	29 Sunflower Drive Beverly Hills, Taytay	P 7,081,592.76
05-10	House & Lot F/A 162 sq.m. L/A 315 sq.m.	B15 L21 #112 Santan Sta., Phase I United Parañaque IV Subdivison Parañaque City	P 1,881,900
05-11	539 sq.m. Residential Lot	B8, L43, Greenbreeze Village VI Bgy. Biclatan, Gen. Trias, Cavite	P 274,890.00
05-12	294 sq.m. Residential Lot	B3, L8, Filinvest, Bgy. Silangan, Capitol, Quezon City	P 1,374,450.00

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents starting March 28, 2005 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 from the Office of the Head, Property Management, 3/F, RSBS Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

A Pre-Bidding Conference is scheduled on April 8, 2005 at 10:00 am, Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on April 15, 2005 at 10:00 AM at the Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

For further inquiries, you can call MS. LIZA HIZON or MR. DARWIN MANZANO at telephone numbers 912-4718 or 911-4071 local 249.

(PDI - March 27, 28 & 29, 2005)

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Adding treats to a dog's life

**YEPPIES
YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR**

By Alexa H. Bacay

IT WAS a new year's resolution put into action.

When 2005 began, Tracy Pamintuan thought of getting a sideline so she could earn more than her monthly wage in her events organizing job at ABS-CBN. She must have been playing with her pet dog, Bacci, or baking goodies for her friends when the idea for a perfect business struck her. Thus, Paw Pastries was born to the market.

Tracy's Paw Pastries are treats for dogs. They're not your basic dog food, but for owners and pet lovers who consider pampering their dogs a vocation, these treats are a must.

"Like people, dogs, too need snacks. *Parang merienda*," Tracy explains.

She came upon ingredients and recipes on the Internet and concocted some recipes on her own, by substituting some ingredients for what are easily available in the market. Her beloved chow-chow became a guinea pig for her creations.

For those worried about their kids mistaking these treats for human food, Tracy says that out of curiosity, she has tasted them.

"The ingredients are actually for humans, too," she assures customers. "It's just that it has no taste for people."

The contents are safe because the only dog food ingredient she uses is meat sawdust. Otherwise, she uses human food ingredients. It's healthy for pets because she doesn't use preservatives like salt and sugar. This is not to say though, that Paw Pastries should be given to humans to snack on.

The price is relatively cheap because a pack can last 2 weeks provided that they're stored in airtight containers.

"Of course, you can't feed your dog too much as it will get fat," Tracy advises. "Anything that's over is bad."

Tracy bakes her goodies at night and the next day they're ready for delivery. She usually delivers during weekends though, because she works a regular job. For now, she supplies the New Manila, Pasig, Megamall and Makati Animal House branches. Eventually she wants to penetrate the other branches and other pet shops as well.

"I actually also want to talk to a lot more but I'm taking it slow because I just started. I don't want to promise too much, because if the demand becomes too big I might not be able to meet it," she says.

Tracy also supplies to her friends and officemates. She gets orders through e-mail and text. She shares that this business has scrapped some night outs from her schedule.

"Right now, I'm still trying to assess whether I can deliver more," she shares. "Well, I'm sure if I just push myself, I can."

She also makes dog birthday cakes. As an events organizer she plans to venture into party catering for dogs where she'll be making pizza, popsicles, etc. that are actual dog food.

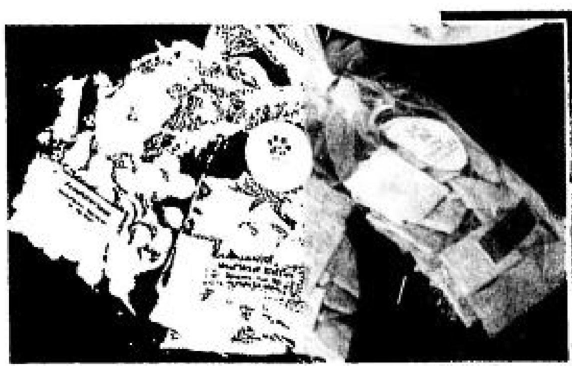
"My aim is to create food or treats for dogs that look like they are for humans," she explained.

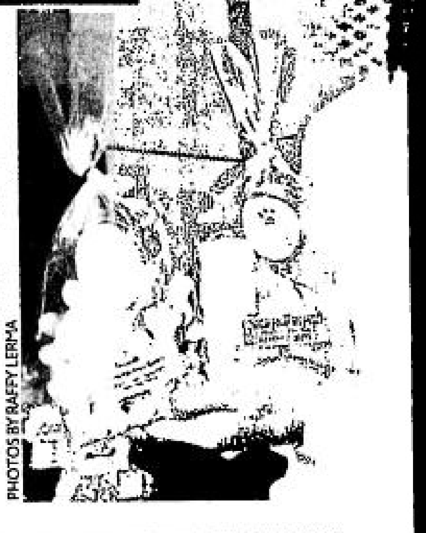
This idea is not popular in the Philippines yet, but Tracy is willing to put action to this idea one day.

"Well, if you think about it, at the end of the day, *aso lang siya* so there are some owners who are hesitant to really spend. But you can't disregard the fact that there are also others who are willing to spend because they treat their dogs like they're their own kids. So it really depends," she says.

For now, Tracy says she has no direct competitor yet. Eventually, she would want to penetrate supermarkets where she sees functional dog food being sold. Her niche is that her product is fresh gourmet dog treats for dog owners, who, like her, love to pamper their dogs.

E-mail Paw Pastries at tracypamintuan@gmail.com





TRACY Pamintuan (right) says that dogs deserve to have "merienda," too.

PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA

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Jewelry that's designed and made by Filipinos

LAUNCHED in 1998, Michelis Gifts and Jewellery was born out of a desire to establish a Filipino jewelry brand. "Michelis stands for love of life. We're here to produce beautiful things, remind people that life itself is beautiful," says marketing manager Alexandra Faustmann.

She says sterling silver jewelry looks quite good on Filipinos because "it tends to be softer on the skin, cooler. Another advantage of sterling silver is it's a lot more affordable than gold."

To qualify as sterling silver, each item should possesses a minimum content of 92.5 percent silver, the level of purify required by the international market.

"But more often than not," notes Faustmann, "Michelis pieces contain approximately 95 percent silver."

Michelis jewelry are designed and manufactured by Filipinos.

Michelis itself does not manufacture outright but subcontracts this to its sister company that has had over 20 years experience in the jewelry industry, exporting to various countries in Europe.

As much as possible, Michelis and its manufacturing sister company source their raw materials from the Philippines. However, materials that are not available, such as gemstones and freshwater pearls, are imported.

Guaranteed to win over discriminating collectors and buyers, Michelis offers pieces such as nougat shell necklaces, whimsical charm bracelets and necklaces, Tiboli-inspired jewellery, cuff links, shirt studs and other accessories for men, religious articles, and gift items like a sterling silver melon ballers and mother-of-pearl photo frames.

"Our customers have an eye for good things, they know they don't have to spend so much for top-of-the line items," observes Faustmann. "Wearers of Michelis jewellery are young at heart and they tend to not like standard silver or jewelry offerings. They value their money; they know quality when they see it." Famous and well-liked celebrities like Boy Abunda, Suzy Entrata and Gene Orejana have endorsed Michelis in the past.

According to Faustmann, the local jewelry industry is in transition from the more traditional 'mom and pop shops' to a more commercial and formal state. "Michelis has been able to grow despite perceived hardship because it has been able to provide its customers with good products," she explains.

Michelis has branches in Greenbelt 1, Lifestyles at the Power Plant, Greenhills Shopping Center, Rustan's Superstore Cubao, Rustan's Alabang Town Center, Rustan's Tower Shangri-La Plaza, and at the lobbies of The Peninsula Manila, Mandarin Oriental Hotel and Shangri-La Hotel, Makati.

"In terms of investment, sterling silver does have lasting value like gold, like gemstones," she explains. "But at the same time you shouldn't get bogged down by the whole investment aspect of it. Jewelry is still something that you wear and use to express yourself. It's both an accessory and an investment."

MICHELIS' marketing manager Alexandra Faustmann is heir to the Michelis sterling silver business.

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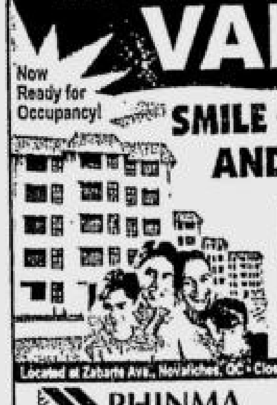

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Lot 33–Res'l/Comm'l Lot w/imprvmnt LA 5,000sqm, FA 150sqm LotA-2 Maharlika Highway, Tagaran, Cauayan City (near GSIS Bldg)
Minimum Bid Price P 3,704,583.00

Lot 34 – Res'l. Lots LA 733 sqm Lots4-O&N Brgy. Paraiso, Cabaruan, Cauayan City
Minimum Bid Price P 435,880.00

Res'l. Lot, Maharlika Homes Subd., Cauayan City

Lot 35 – L14 Blk7 LA 300 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 660,000.00

Lot 36 – L20 Blk5 LA 300 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 675,000.00

Lot 37 - Res'l. Lot LA 924 sqm Lot10027-C-3-B Brgy. Tagaran, Cauayan City
Minimum Bid Price P 470,900.00

Lot 38 – Res'l. Lot LA 924 sqm Lot10027-C-3-C-1 Brgy. Tagaran, Cauayan City
Minimum Bid Price P 415,800.00

Lot 39 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt LA 745sqm, FA 350sqm Lot2-C Municipal Rd, Brgy. San Fermin, Cauayan City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,952,050.00

ISABELA

Lot 40-Res'l/Comm'l Lot LA6,557sqm Maharlika Highway, Brgy. Prenza, Cauayan City (across Km. Post 366)
Minimum Bid Price P 7,081,500.00

Lot 41– Res'l. Lots LA 5,000 sqm Lot3562-E-2-B to F Barrio rd, La Paz, Cabatuan
Minimum Bid Price P 1,125,000.00

Lot 42 - Res'l/Comm'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt LA 313 sqm, FA 72sqm Municipal Road, Poblacion, San Mateo
Minimum Bid Price P 2,347,500.00

Lot 43 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt LA 625 sqm LotA-1-C Bonifacio St, Dist 3, San Manuel
Minimum Bid Price P 281,250.00

Lot 44 - Res'l. Lot LA 901 sqm Lot1322 Rizal cor Salaguinto Sts, Brgy. Dist 2, San Manuel
Minimum Bid Price P 495,550.00

Lot 45 - Res'l. Lot LA 765 sqm Lot1173 Mabini St. Purok 4, Dist 2, Callang Res'l. Site, Poblacion San Manuel (across Calayag PoultrySupply)
Minimum Bid Price P 325,125.00

Lot 46–Res'l/Comm'l. Lot LA 689sqm Lot7675 cor Bantug Ave. & Gen. Luna St, Bantug, Roxas
Minimum Bid Price P 2,204,800.00

Lot 47 - Res'l. Lot LA 416 sqm L7 Blk1 Rd. lot1, RubySubd,Vira,Roxas
Minimum Bid Price P 582,400.00

Lot 48 – Res'l. Lot LA 240 sqm L5 Blk2 National Rd., Brgy. Vira, Roxas
Minimum Bid Price P 240,000.00

Lot 49 – Res'l. Lot LA 399sqm Lot4778-F-4-A-4-C, Brgy. Rizal, Roxas
Minimum Bid Price P 478,800.00

Lot 50 - Res'l. Lot LA 250 sqm Lot7852-B-1 Claro M. Recto St. Brgy. Rizal, Roxas
Minimum Bid Price P 1,000,000.00

Lot 51 – Res'l. LA 350 sqm Lot6-A Brgy. Magsaysay, Naguilian
Minimum Bid Price P 148,750.00

Lot 52 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt LA 510 sqm, FA 162.50 sqm Lot4543-C-1 National Rd., Brgy. Magsaysay, Naguilian
Minimum Bid Price P 714,000.00

Lot 53 – Res'l. Lot LA 6,763sqm Provincial Rd, Brgy. Magsaysay, Naguilian
Minimum Bid Price P 2,011,950.00

Lot 54 – Res'l. Lot LA 2,800 sqm Lot4316-G Brgy. Magsaysay, Naguilian
Minimum Bid Price P 1,190,000.00

Lot 55 - Res'l. Lot LA 272 sqm Lot3402 Libertad St. QuezonDist,Naguilian
Minimum Bid Price P 204,000.00

Lot 56 - Res'l. Lot LA 257 sqm Lot3476 Libertad St, Quezon Dist, Naguilian
Minimum Bid Price P 192,750.00

Lot 57 - Res'l. Lots LA 2,662 L4259-A&C Maharlika Highway, Magsaysay, Naguilian
Minimum Bid Price P 1,969,880.00

Lot 58 – Orchard w/ Poultry Houses LA 106,841sqm, FA 955sqm Lot10516-B-2 & Lot4447-E Brgy. Magsaysay, Naguilian
Minimum Bid Price P 6,485,500.00

Lot 59 - Comm'l. Lots w/ Imprvmnt LA7,415sqm, FA187sqm Lot2-C-B-283 Maharlika Highway, Alibagu, Ilagan
Minimum Bid Price P 5,951,887.00

ISABELA

Lot 60 – Res'l. Lot LA 3,871 sqm Brgy Alibagu, Ilagan (In front of Prov Capitol)
Minimum Bid Price P 6,580,700.00

LA UNION

Lot 61– Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt LA 197 sqm, FA 150 sqm Brgy. Madayegdeg, San Fernando
Minimum Bid Price P 771,194.00

PANGASINAN

Lot 62 – Res'l. Lots LA 500 sqm L14&15 Blk8 Narra St, Carmay Subd, Carmay East, Rosales
Minimum Bid Price P 425,000.00

Lot 63 – Res'l. Twnhse LA 251 sqm, FA 300sqm 16241-E Brgy. Rd, Nalsian, Calasiao
Minimum Bid Price P 2,267,421.00

Lot 64 - Res'l. Lot LA 2,071 sqm #4 Mamaradlo St. Poblacion West, Calasiao
Minimum Bid Price P 4,659,750.00

Lot 65 - Res'l. Lot LA 228 sqm Lot688-F Callejon St, Pogo Chico, Dagupan City
Minimum Bid Price P 291,840.00

Lot 66 - Res'l. Lot LA 219 sqm Lot688-K Callejon St, Pogo Chico, Dagupan City
Minimum Bid Price P 279,040.00

Lot 67 - Res'l. Lot LA 392 sqm M.H. del Pilar St. Mayombo Dist, Dagupan City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,332,800.00

Lot 68 - Res'l. Lot LA 194 sqm L1 Nel-Ars Subd.Tapuac Dist. Dagupan City
Minimum Bid Price P 814,800.00

Lot 69 - Res'l. Lot LA 315 sqm L7 Blk111 Merry Land Subd, Navaluan, Mangaldan
Minimum Bid Price P 425,250.00

LAS PIÑAS

Res'l. Twnhse, Royal South Townhomes, Brgy. Talon Singko (Back of SM Southmall)

Lot 70 – L67 Blk9; LA 94sqm, FA 92sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,297,200.00

Lot 71 – L77 Blk9, LA 89sqm, FA 92sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,076,900.00

Lot 72 – L73 Blk9; LA 54 sqm, FA 92sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,107,000.00

PARAÑAQUE

Res'l. Condo., Makati South Hills Arcade, East Service Rd. Bgy.Balagbag (near airport)

Lot 73 – Unit 302 FA 107.35 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,824,950.00

Lot 74 – Unit 301 FA 136.31 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,317,270.00

Lot 75 – Unit 307 FA 136.31 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,317,270.00

QUEZON CITY

Lot 76 – Res'l. Twnhse FA 230.61 sqm U-13 Capitol Golf Townhomes & Golfers Villas, Capitol Hills (near Ateneo/UP)
Minimum Bid Price P 3,874,248.00

Lot 77 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt LA 230.30sqm, FA 139sqm #16 Lot17 Pajo St, Quirino 2-A/Quirino Dist., Proj. 2
Minimum Bid Price P 2,074,170.00

Lot 78 – Res'L. Lot w/ Imprvmnt LA 230.40sqm, FA 86sqm #18 Lot19 Pajo St, Quirino 2-A/Quirino Dist., Proj. 2
Minimum Bid Price P 2,074,170.00

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CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

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PROVINCIAL

ROYALE TAGAYTAY LA915 FA200 P3.8M 09275222683

LOT

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m^2 P3,473/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 25

VILLA ANGELICA LA279m^2 FA157m^2 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LOT

OTHER AREAS

HOUSE and LOT FOR SALE with TITLE
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Size : 12,056 (square meters)
PRICE: 9 million (negotiable)
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899-0611 / 0919-7608840

LAS PINAS

AYALA SOUTHVALE-SONERA 500SQM up 0917-8997547

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298m^2 @P30T/m^2 0917-9160226

NR MAKATI COLIS'M 254@ 20T /SQM CALL ROMY/LIZA 8441989 09196878355

MARIKINA

Tangerine St 1578m^2 0917-5213838

PASIG

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LOT

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BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m^2 P165/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m^2 P6,028/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

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SOUTH PT. 180m²
Nr Cabuyao Exit 9125847

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Old Balara, Quezon City
GRANDWOOD VILLAS

TOWNHOUSE	
L.A. 111 sqm.	P 1,215,000
L.A. 79 sqm.	P 1,300,000
L.A. 100 sqm.	P 1,926,000
L.A. 54 sqm.	P 2,500,000

Antipolo City
HILLS OF MAIA ALTA

HOUSE AND LOT		
L.A. 102 sqm	F.A. 56 sqm.	P 850,000
L.A. 180 sqm.	F.A. 80 sqm.	P1,000,000
L.A. 88 sqm.	F.A. 97 sqm	P1,300,000
L.A. 126 sqm.	F.A. 92 sqm.	P1,600,000

Antipolo City
COTTONWOODS HEIGHTS

HOUSE AND LOT		
L.A. 203 sqm.	F.A. 116 sqm.	P 2,100,000
L.A. 243 sqm.	F.A. 220 sqm.	P 2,230,000
L.A. 340 sqm.	F.A. 147 sqm.	P 3,100,000
L.A. 404 sqm.	F.A. 168 sqm.	P 3,600,000

Antipolo City
BENTLEY PARK SUBD.

RESIDENTIAL LOT		
L.A. 180 sqm.	P	630,000
L.A. 219 sqm.	P	766,500
L.A. 246 sqm.	P	861,000
L.A. 265 sqm.	P	980,500

Antipolo City
WOODROW

HOUSE AND LOT		
L.A. 50 sqm.	F.A. 40 sqm.	P 400,000
L.A. 143 sqm.	F.A. 38 sqm.	P 775,000
L.A. 65 sqm.	F.A. 65 sqm.	P 790,000

San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
CARISSA HOMES

HOUSE AND LOT		
L.A. 35 sqm.	F.A. 27 sqm.	P 120,000
L.A. 35 sqm.	F.A. 20 sqm.	P 290,000
L.A. 54 sqm.	F.A. 21 sqm.	P 350,000
L.A. 79 sqm.	F.A. 73 sqm.	P 460,000

Caloocan City
PALMERA SPRING

HOUSE AND LOT		
L.A. 50 sqm.	F.A. 36 sqm.	P 520,000
L.A. 96 sqm.	F.A. 67 sqm.	P 750,000
L.A. 99 sqm.	F.A. 48 sqm.	P1,200,000
L.A. 50 sqm.	F.A. 48 sqm.	P 470,000

Mexico, Pampanga
VILLA VIVA SUBD.

HOUSE AND LOT		
L.A. 120 sqm.	F.A. 32 sqm.	P 450,000
L.A. 110 sqm.	F.A. 32 sqm.	P 530,000
L.A. 120 sqm.	F.A. 32 sqm.	P 500,000
L.A. 189 sqm.	F.A. 31 sqm.	P 560,000

Mexico, Pampanga
ROYAL MEADOWS

HOUSE AND LOT		
L.A. 110 sqm.	F.A. 32 sqm.	P 340,000
L.A. 110 sqm.	F.A. 32 sqm.	P 470,000
L.A. 132 sqm.	F.A. 31.5 sqm.	P 550,000
L.A. 191 sqm.	F.A. 31.5 sqm.	P 720,000

Dasmariñas, Cavite
LA MEDITERRANEA

HOUSE AND LOT		
L.A. 99 sqm	F.A. 70 sqm	P 675,000
L.A. 110 sqm	F.A. 72 sqm	P 900,000
L.A. 140 sqm.	F.A. 83 sqm	P 1,260,000
L.A. 110 sqm.	F.A. 126 sqm.	P 1,600,000

Imus, Cavite
SUNNYDALE EXEC. SUBD.

HOUSE AND LOT		
L.A. 90 sqm.	F.A. 25 sqm.	P 290,000
L.A. 88 sqm.	F.A. 30 sqm.	P 470,000
L.A. 137 sqm.	F.A. 31 sqm.	P 530,000
L.A. 167 sqm.	F.A. 30 sqm.	P 790,000

Sta. Rosa, Laguna
BELLE REVE

RESIDENTIAL LOT	
501 sqm.	P 3,000,000
546 sqm	P 3,500,000
744 sqm	P 4,500,000
824 sqm	P 5,000,000

Sta. Rosa, Laguna
LA RESIDENCIA

RESIDENTIAL LOT	
150 sqm.	P 900,000
174 sqm	P 1,100,000
276 sqm	P 1,500,000
335 sqm	P 2,300,000

Sta. Maria, Laguna
PALMERA HOMES

HOUSE AND LOT		
L.A. 73 sqm.	F.A. 36 sqm.	P 130,000
L.A. 83 sqm.	F.A. 36 sqm.	P 130,000
L.A. 100 sqm.	F.A. 36 sqm.	P 140,000
L.A. 97 sqm.	F.A. 36 sqm.	P 140,000

San Pedro, Laguna
LA MAREA

HOUSE AND LOT		
L.A. 135 sqm.	F.A. 76 sqm.	P 1,200,000
L.A. 118 sqm	F.A. 64 sqm	P 1,300,000
L.A. 181 sqm.	F.A. 167 sqm.	P 2,800,000
L.A. 573 sqm	F.A. 82 sqm	P 3,056,000

Las Piñas
BF RESORT EXEC. VILL.

HOUSE AND LOT		
L.A. 100 sqm.	F.A. 60 sqm.	P1,020,000
L.A. 160 sqm.	F.A. 68 sqm.	P1,500,000
L.A. 100 sqm.	F.A. 60 sqm.	P2,385,000
L.A. 240 sqm.	F.A. 395 sqm	P5,960,000

CALOOCAN

RCBC2_SB001 -VACANT LOT
L.A 872 sqm
Miramonte Hts, Camarin Rd., Nova
Min. Bid Price. P 785,000

RCBC2_SB002 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 83 sqm. F.A 46 sqm
L4 B2 Tierra Nova, Royale Subd.
Min. Bid Price : P 550,000

RCBC2_SB004 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 109 sqm. F.A 40 sqm
B4 L1 Madrid St., Tierra Nova Royale II-B
Min. Bid Price : P 800,000

RCBC1_SB007 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 50 sqm F.A 40 sqm
B13 L4 Whispering Palms
Min. Bid Price : P 800,000

RCBC1_SB011 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 153 sqm F.A 70 18 sqm.
20 Athens Vista Verde North
Min Bid Price : P 1,020,000

RCBC1_SB009 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 220 sqm F.A 200 sqm.
B4 L25 Pleasant View Subd.
Min Bid Price : P 2,450,000

RCBC1_SB008 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 100 sqm F.A 60 sqm
B6 L17 Whispering Palms
Min Bid Price : P 540,000

RCBC1_SB010 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 216 sqm F.A 175 sqm
B1 L17 Hillcrest Subd
Min. Bid Price : P 2,250,000

RCBC1_SB208 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 75sqm F.A 50sqm
B8 L12 Whispering Palms, Novaliches
Min Bid Price P 525,000

LAS PIÑAS

RCBC1_SB168 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 120 sqm F.A 105 sqm.
B7-A L13 Revelation St.
CH - Classic Almanza
Min. Bid Price : P 1,370,000

RCBC1_SB170 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 315 sqm F.A 194 sqm
2 Uranium St., Camella Homes
Classic IV
Min Bid Price : P 2,650,000

RCBC1_SB173 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 148 sqm F.A 180 sqm.
No 54 Minuet St., Sta. Cecilia Village,
Talon Dos
Min Bid Price : P 1,800,000

RCBC1_SB174 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 238 sqm F.A 112 sqm
No 51, Dao Street, Pilar Village,
Min. Bid Price : P 2,000,000

RCBC1_SB307 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 298 sqm
blk. 13 lot 13 St. Dominic cor St., George St.,
Metrocor Subd., Las Piñas
Min Bid Price P 1,102,000

MAKATI CITY

RRCBC1_SB216 -house & Lot
L.A 273 sqm FA 193 sqm.
Pembo, Fort Bonifacio
Min Bid Price : P 2,760,000

RCBC1_SB217 - TOWNHOUSE
L.A 66 sqm FA 139 sqm
Madras St., Blk. 31 Lot 13B Palanan
Min. Bid Price : P 4,250,000

RCBC1_SB218 - 3 STOREY BLDG
L.A 109 sqm Tejeros 5124 Malolos St
Min Bid Price P 3,610,000

MANILA

RCBC1_SB219 - CONDOMINIUM
FA 70 sqm
Empire Plaza Condo, Unit 1207
Min Bid Price : P 5,380,000.00

RCBC1_SB220 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 113 sqm FA 73 sqm
08 Calayan st., Kristinaville Exec. Homes,
Min Bid Price P 1,920,000.00

MARIKINA

RCBC2_SB012 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 420 sqm F.A 310 sqm
Twinville Subd
Min. Bid Price : P 3,500,000

RCBC1_SB210 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 300m F.A 91qm.
B11 L7 Marikina Greenheights
Min Bid Price P 2,950,000

MUNTINLUPA

RCBC2_SB014 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 154 sqm F.A 135 sqm.
L2 B12 Lakeshore Drive, Tunasan
Min. Bid Price : P 1,800,000

RCBC2_SB015 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 120 sqm F.A 85 sqm
675 Esponos Compound, Putatan
Min Bid Price : P 400,000

RCBC2_SB016 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 312 sqm
L11 B53 Orchids St., South Greenhills
Subd
Min Bid Price: P 900,000

RCBC2_SB017 - COMM'L BLDG.
L.A 706 sqm F.A 585 sqm
247 Int. Montilano St. Alabang
Min Bid Price P 4,600,000

PARAÑAQUE

RCBC2_SB018 - RSD L LOT
L.A 331 sqm
L3 B10 Everlasting cor., Violet St.,
Marcelo Green Village
Min. Bid Price P 1,750,000

RCBC1_SB211 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 90 sqm FA 174 sqm.
Blk 42 lot 27, John St. Betterliving
Min. Bid Price P 2,850,000

RCBC1_SB212 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 72 sqm FA 72 sqm
Unit 13 &14 Chateau Anton,
Betterliving Subd.
Min. Bid Price : P 2,160,000

RCBC1_SB213 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 129 sqm FA 245 sqm
Shenandoah Hts. 15-A Shenandoah
st., Shenandoah Homes
Min. Bid Price. P 3,220,000

RCBC1_SB214 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 351 sqm FA 313 sqm.
Blk 26 lot 01,Don Bosco St.,
Betterliving
Min. Bid Price : P 4,050,000

RCBC1_SB215 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 427 sqm FA 213 sqm.
Manahika Ph 4 Betterliving
Min Bid Price P 2,430,000

PASAY

RCBC1_SB221 - RSD'L LOT
FA 33 sqm.
Blk 17 Lot 06, Topaz St. Bo San Jose
Min Bid Price . P

RCBC1_SB222 - RSD'L LOT
FA 47 sqm
Unit 1108, 11th Flr. Sen. 501 Gil
Puyat, Buendia Tower,
Min. Bid Price . P 1,720,000.00

RCBC1_SB223 - RSD'L LOT
FA 130 sqm
Room 603, 6th Flr Buendia Towers
Min Bid Price P 2,090,000.00

PASIG CITY

QUEZON CITY RCBC_SB224 - RSDL
LOT
L.A 150 sqm
L13 B14 Anita St.,Chrsline Royale
Garden
Brgy San Miguel
Min. Bid Price. P 750,000

RCBC_SB225 - VACANT LOT
L.A 150 sqm
L15 B14 Anita St.,Chrstine Royale
Garden
Brgy San Miguel
Min Bid Price. P 750,000

RCBC1_SB226 - CONDOMINIUM
FA 106 887 sqm.
Unit 2105 Galleria Suites, Ortigas Area
Min Bid Price P 6,035,000

RCBC1_SB020 - CONDO UNIT
F.A 73 97 sqm /unit
Unit F-301 / F-302 Hampton Gardens,
Maybunga
Min. Bid Price : P 2,750,000

RCBC1_SB021 - CONDO UNIT
FA 30 sqm
Unit L101-A-L101 OMM San Miguel
Ave
Min Bid Price P 2,940,000

QUEZON CITY

RCBC_LMF HOUSE & LOT
WALKING DISTANCE TO LRT
STATION NEAR ARANETA
CENTER, CUBAO
L.A. 300sqm. F.A. 250sqm
36 Boston St.,
Brgy. Immaculate Concepcion.
Min. Bid Price : P CALL US

RCBC2_SB032 - RSDL LOT
L.A 500 sqm
Seoul Olympics Ave., MMC Prop.
Jordan Plains Novaliches
Min. Bid Price: P 700,000

RCBC2_SB228 - RSDL LOT
L.A 872 sqm
L12 B26 Rd Lot 10 Mirmonte Heights,
Camarin Rd., Novaliches
Min. Bid Price: P 785,000

RCBC1_SB022 - TOWNHOUSE
L.A 37 4 sqm F.A 58 65 sqm.
Unit 207-G South Triangle
Min. Bid Price : P 2,150,000

RCBC1_SB031 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 50 sqm F.A 00 sqm
Century Homes, Novaliches
Min Bid Price : P 780,000

RCBC1_SB229 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 58 83 sqm F.A 119 sqm
15B L42 Unit2 West Fairview
Min. Bid Price : P 1,904,000.00

RCBC1_SB023 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 100 sqm F.A 150 sqm
B10 L1-A Buck Subd Fairview
Min Bid Price : P 1,715,000

RCBC1_SB026 - RSDL LOT
L.A 325 sqm
L14 B20 J Fuentes Dr 1426
North Susana Exec Vill
Min. Bid Price : P 3,080,000

RCBC1_SB230 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 120 sqm F.A 192 sqm
Unit 5 #112 Pluto Corner Subd. Proj. 8
Min Bid Price P 3,256,800

RCBC1_SB231 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 456 sqm F.A 200 sqm
B48 L11 Mustang St., Fairview
Min. Bid Price . P 2,060,000

RCBC1_SB033 - RSDL LOT
L.A 212 sqm
B15 L2 Marytown Circle, Novaliches
Min. Bid Price . P 2,300,000

RCBC1_SB027 - RSDL LOT
L.A 73 sqm.
L6-D Jem 3 Subd. Bantal
Min Bid Price . P 1,150,000

RCBC1_SB028 - TOWNHOUSE
L.A 29 75 sqm F.A 106 sqm
Unit 15 Villa Andrea Townhomes
Min. Bid Price . P 726,250

RCBC1_SB232 - RSDL LOT
L.A 526 sqm
B11 L30 Fairview Park Subd.
Min. Bid Price . P

RCBC1_SB029 - TOWNHOUSE
L.A 60 sqm F.A 100 sqm
Unit 8 Adelfa 5 Park Townhomes
Min. Bid Price : P 1,800,000

RCBC1_SB030 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 370 sqm F.A 642 sqm
23 Pinesville, Greenview Exec. Subd.
Min. Bid Price . P 9,280,000

RCBC1_SB233 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 400 sqm F.A 300 sqm
19 Pontiac St. Fairview Park Subd
Min. Bid Price . P 2,000,000

RCBC1_SB034 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 79 3 sqm F.A 108 sqm.
11 Camia DRJ Subd. Sauyo
Novaliches
Min Bid Price : P 1,020,000

RCBC1_SB042 - TOWNHOUSE
L.A 81 8 sqm F.A 76 sqm
Unit 9 Apo Comp TS
Min. Bid Price . P 1,350,000

RCBC1_SB239 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 200 sqm F.A 56 sqm
B22 L18 Lagro Subd Novaliches
Min Bid Price . P 1,000,000.00

RCBC1_SB024 - RSDL LOT
L.A 150 7 sqm
L9 Merry Homes Fairview
Min. Bid Price P 1,275,000

RCBC1_SB025 - RSDL LOT
L.A 72 5 sqm
L9-A-2 Dahlia Exec., Homes Fairview
Min Bid Price P 960,000

VALENZUELA

RCBC1_SB044 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 310 sqm F.A 350 sqm
216 20th cor 19th St., Fortune Vill.5
Bgy Parada
Min. Bid Price . P 4,530,000

RCBC1_SB045 - RSDL LOT
L.A 247 sqm
233 20th St., Fortune Village
Min. Bid Price . P 2,660,000

RCBC1_SB242 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 244 sqm F.A 120 sqm.
#167 6th St., Fortune Vill 5
Brgy Paso de Blas
Min. Bid Price . P 1,275,000

RCBC1_SB243 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 166 sqm F.A 298 5 sqm
#3 Little Baguio Marulas
Min Bid Price . P 2,750,000

RCBC1_SB046 - CMML HIGH RISE
Bldg
L.A 949 8 sqm.
203 McArthur Karuhatan
Min Bid Price P 18,640,000

RCBC1_SB244 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 215 8 sqm F.A 258 7 sqm
5043 Sto. Rosario Modesto St.
Mapulang Lupa
Min Bid Price P 3,460,000

ANTIPOLO

RCBC2_SB050 - RSDL LOT
L.A 2,415 sqm
L1 B14 Victoria Valley Subd.
Mayamot
Min. Bid Price: P 3,800,000

RCBC2_SB258 - RSD'L CMPD.
L.A 1,305 sqm F.A. 744 sqm
#27 Sunrise cor 4th Ave
Beverly Hills Subd.
Min. Bid Price. P 13,000,000

RCBC2_SB056 - RSDL LOT
L.A 1,030 sqm.
Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price : P 4,000,000

RCBC1_SB064 - RSDL LOT
L.A 2,415 sqm
B14 L17 Victoria Valley
Min. Bid Price : P 3,860,000

RCBC1_SB065 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 170 sqm F.A 60 sqm
B7 L7, 9 & 11 Loremar Exec.
Min. Bid Price : P 3,298,000

RCBC1_SB080 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 166 sqm F.A 76 sqm.
B7 L1 Crestview
Min Bid Price : P 990,000

CAINTA, TAYTAY, ANGONO, RIZAL

RCBC2_SB194 - COMM'L LOT
L.A 1,318 sqm.
Bgy. San Juan, Cainta
Min Bid Price : P 13,200,000

RCBC2_SB206 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 116 sqm F.A 202 sqm
Doña Nieves, Sto. Niño, Angono
Min Bid Price P 2,000,000

RCBC2_SB198 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 264 sqm F.A 495 sqm.
3rd Street, St. Martin Subd., Angono
Min Bid Price : P 900,000

RCBC2_SB199 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 150 sqm F.A 140 sqm.
Ridgemont Exec. Vill., San Isidro,
Taytay
Min. Bid Price : P 2,000,000

RCBC2_SB200 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 100 sqm F.A 234 sqm.
18 Sampaguita St., Aranzanzu Subd.
San Mateo
Min Bid Price : P 900,000

RCBC2_SB201 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 70 sqm F.A 32 sqm
Palmera Homes Tierra Monte,
Siangan, San Mateo
Min. Bid Price : P 200,000

RCBC2_SB202 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 240 sqm F.A 232 sqm
L29 B5 Marvi Hills Subd. San Mateo
Min Bid Price : P 1,700,000

RCBC2_SB204 - RSDL LOT
L.A 1 506 sqm
Sitio Lubigan, Bgy Plaza Aldea, Tanay
Min Bid Price P 500,000

RCBC1_SB205 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 50 sqm F.A 60 sqm.
Binangonan
Min Bid Price : P 2,050,000

RCBC1_SB299 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 120 sqm F.A 90 sqm
69-B Benito Soliven St., Cainta
Min Bid Price : P 750,000

RCBC1_SB301 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 50 sqm
B36 L11 Nangka, San Mateo
Min Bid Price P 310,000

BULACAN

RCBC1_SB141 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 259 sqm F.A 160 sqm
B37 L6 Buhangin Garden Vill., Sta.
Maria
Min. Bid Price. P 3,000,000

RCBC2_SB067 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 116 sqm F.A 36 sqm
L35 B24 Palmera Homes 2A
Bo Sto. Cristo, SJDM
Min Bid Price P 400,000

RCBC2_SB069 - RSDL LOT
L.A 450 sqm
Eucalyptus St., Greenplains, Calumpit
Min Bid Price. P 1,600,000

RCBC2~_SB070 - COMM'L LOT
L.A 2,471 sqm
Burol 1st., Balagtas,
Min Bid Price P 20,000,000

RCBC2_SB071 - IND'L WAREHOUSE
L.A 645 sqm F.A 809 sqm
RIS Industrial Complex, Mercado St.,
Guguinto
Min Bid Price: P 6,200,000

RCBC2_SB068 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 44 sqm F.A 34 sqm
L6 B31 Alloy 10 Northridge Subd.,
SJDM
Min. Bid Price P 150,000

RCBC2_SB073 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 143 sqm F.A 25 sqm
La Poblacion Dr. La Poblacion Subd.
SJDM
Min. Bid Price: P 360,000

RCBC2_SB267 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 60 sqm F.A 24 sqm.
L1 B15 Rd. L4 Alley 10, Carissa Hms,
SJDM
Min Bid Price P 150,000

RCBC2_SB074 - RESDL LOT
L.A 5 497 sqm
Bamp Mabalo, Malolos
Min Bid Price P 5,500,000

RCBC2_SB075 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 204 28 sqm F.A 110 sqm
F Estrella St., Malolos
Min Bid Price. P 1,520,000

RCBC2_SB077 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 764 sqm F.A 132 sqm
Lot 67B Agnaya, Plaridel
Min Bid Price P 3,285,000

RCBC1_SB080 - RSDL LOT
L.A 3 906 sqm
Lot 3004 C Camangyanan, Sta. Maria
Min Bid Price P 2,420,000

RCBC1_SB078 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 45 sqm F.A 23 sqm.
509 Parulan, Plandel
Min Bid Price P 1,000,000

RCBC1_SB082 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 56 sqm F.A 48 sqm
B7 L20 Northwinds City SJDM
Min Bid Price P 230,000

RCBC1_SB088 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 79 sqm F.A 48 sqm.
L1087 Bocaue
Min. Bid Price: P 1,060,000

RCBC1_SB084 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 120 sqm F.A 100 sqm
Culcot Pulilan
Min. Bid Price P 8,560,000

RCBC1_SB085 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 350 sqm F.A 120 sqm
B2 L5 & L7 Violeta Metroville, Bocaue
Min. Bid Price P 2,870,000

RCBC1_SB086 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 1,402 sqm F.A 60 sqm
Sapang Palay SJDM
Min Bid Price. P 11,800,000

RCBC1_SB096 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 79 sqm F.A 50 sqm.
B3 L28 Northwinds City SJDM
Min Bid Price P 400,000

RCBC1_SB098 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 70 sqm F.A 22 5 sqm.
B9 L2 Northridge Exec SJDM
Min Bid Price. P 340,000

RCBC1_SB099 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 1,528 sqm F.A 305 sqm
229 Manatal Pandi
Min. Bid Price: P 5,960,000

RCBC1_SB276 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 207 sqm F.A 60 sqm
89 Sumapang Bata, Malolos
Min. Bid Price: P 1,200,000

RCBC1_SB081 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 1 708 sqm F.A 100 sqm
218 Liwasan San Vicente, Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 2,500,000

RCBC1_SB092 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 80 sqm F.A 25 sqm
B1 L6 Northwinds City SJDM
Min Bid Price : P 200,000

RCBC1_SB087 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 285 sqm F.A 76 sqm.
147 Bunlo St., Bocaue
Min. Bid Price. P 2,200,000

RCBC1_SB100 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 70 sqm F.A 20 sqm.
B5 L13 La Poblacion SJDM
Min. Bid Price : P 170,000

RCBC1_SB279 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 259 sqm F.A 160 sqm
B37 L6 Buhangin Garden Vill. Sta.
Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000

RCBC1_SB102 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 35 sqm F.A 27 sqm.
B16 L40 Camella Homes 2 SJDM
Min Bid Price. P 275,000

RCBC1_SB103 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 230 sqm F.A 80 sqm
8 Bungahan, Malolos
Min Bid Price P 450,000

RCBC1_SB104 - HOUSE &'LOT
L.A 1 000 sqm F.A 140 sqm.
Sta. Rosa II, Marilao
Min. Bid Price. P 2,550,000

RCBC1_SB083 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 60 sqm F.A 25 sqm
B3 L8 Northwinds City SJDM
Min. Bid Price : P 225,000

RCBC1_SB079 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 540 sqm F.A 200 sqm
5068 Mary Grace Subd. Sto. Niño,
Plandel
Min Bid Price: P 2,170,000

CABANATUAN

RCBC1_SB106 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 5,686 sqm F.A 1,310 sqm
Lot 1300 D Sniaysoy, Cabanatuan
Min. Bid Price . P 14,500,000

CAVITE

RCBC1_SB303 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 72 sqm F.A 36 sqm.
B1 L66 Philhomes Villa, Toklong,
Kawit
Min Bid Price: P 425,000

RCBC1_SB304 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 72 sqm F.A 33 sqm.
B1 L65 Philhomes Villa, Toklong,
Kawit
Min Bid Price: P 320,000

RCBC1_SB305 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm F.A 71 sqm
Francisco Cmpd. V, Lot 5_A-3, Brgy.
San Juan
Min Bid Price P 695,000

RCBC2_SB107 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 77 sqm F.A 40 sqm.
L12 B5 Ohio St., Camella Homes
Barcelona, Imus
Min. Bid Price: P 350,000

RCBC2_SB307 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 50 sqm F.A 52 sqm
Blk.07 lot 29, Barcelona IV.
Tanzang Luma, Imus
Min Bid Price P 300,000

RCBC2_SB308 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 231 sqm F.A 130 sqm.
Blk. 04 lot 23, Via Verde Village,
Poinsettia, Dasma
Min. Bid Price: P 1,620,000

RCBC1_SB309 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 53 sqm F.A 93 sqm
Georgeville, Blk 05 Lot 45, Pag asa II
Min Bid Price: P 880,000

RCBC2_SB109 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 35 sqm F.A 26 sqm.
L10 B7 Naples St., Carissa Homes
San Marino, Dasma
Min Bid Price: P 140,000

RCBC1_SB120 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 120 sqm F.A 80 sqm
Georgetown Heights II, Blk 46 Lot 05,
Molino
Min Bid Price : P 625,000

RCBC1_SB119 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 85 sqm F.A 45 sqm
L32 B4 CH-, Banaba St., Habay,
Bacoor
Min Bid Price : P 655,000

RCBC1_SB112 -HOUSE & LOT
L.A 120 sqm F.A 36 sqm.
L8 B46 Georgetown Heights II, Molino,
Bacoor
Min. Bid Price : P 755,000

RCBC1_SB125 -HOUSE & LOT
L.A 109 sqm F.A 93 sqm
Sorrento Executive Homes,
Panapaan, Bacoor
Min Bid Price P 1,150,000

RCBC1_SB126 -HOUSE & LOT
L.A 111 sqm F.A 60 sqm.
B4 L1 Sorrento Executive Homes,
Bacoor
Min. Bid Price : P 730,000

RCBC1_SB311 -HOUSE & LOT
L.A 110 sqm F.A 45 sqm
Blk. 09 lot 11, Springville Executive
Village I, Molino
Min Bid Price : P 710,000

RCBC1_SB312 -HOUSE & LOT
L.A 112 sqm F.A 45 sqm.
Blk 7 lot 2, Sorrento Homes, Habay
Min. Bid Price . P 770,000

RCBC1_SB124 -HOUSE & LOT
L.A 120 sqm F.A 63 sqm.
Woodwind Village, Molino IV, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price . P 1,100,000

RCBC1_SB123 -HOUSE & LOT
L.A 120 sqm F.A 36 sqm
Georgetown Heights II, Molino, Bacoor
Min Bid Price . P 805,000

RCBC1_SB313 -HOUSE & LOT
L.A 68 sqm. PA 25 sqm
Blk. 07 lot 10, Burol III, Windsor
Homes, Dasma
Min Bid Price : P 210,000

RCBC1_SB328 -HOUSE & LOT
L.A 109 sqm F.A 27 sqm.
B1 L1 Alley I, Windsor Homes,
Dasma
Min. Bid Price : P 300,000

RCBC1_SB320 -HOUSE & LOT
L.A 84 sqm F.A 30 sqm.
B1 L8 Windsor Homes, Dasmariñas
Min Bid Price P 310,000

RCBC1_SB322 -HOUSE & LOT
L.A 110 sqm F.A 45 sqm
B8 L13 Managers Drive, Springville
Exec. 1
Min Bid Price : P 655,000

GENERAL SANTOS CITY

RCBC_SB136 - AGRI LOT
L.A 745 sqm
San Isidro, Gen. Santos City
Min Bid Price. P 350,000

ILOILO CITY

RCBC2_SB137 - RSDL LOT
L.A 3 060 sqm
Divinagracia St., La Paz
Min Bid Price P 7,250,000

LAGUNA

RCBC2_SB330 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 300 sqm. F.A. 110 sqm
Pacita Complex, no. 1 C.P. Garcia
Min Bid Price. P 2,458,000

RCBC2_SB331 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 252sqm. Fasqm 100
Lakeshore Homes, Subd., #240 Rosal
St.,
Sto. Somingo, Bay
Min Bid Price P 1,630,000

RCBC2_SB332 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 110sqm. Fa sqm 51
blk 06 lot 37 Sto. Domingo.
Lakeshore Homes, Bay
Min Bid Price. P 683,000

RCBC1_SB158 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 181 sqm FA 167 sqm
B8 L 4,5,6,&7 Don Miguel, Subd., Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 2,800,000

RCBC1_SB333 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 190/298 sqm FA 430sqm
B3 L 31 & 32 Jamaica Hills Subd.,
Bambang
Min Bid Price: P 5,936,000

RCBC2_SB334 -RSDL & LOT
L.A. 150/220/174 sqm.
Blk. 21 lot's 33-35, Villa Esmeralda,
San LorenzoVillage Sta. Rosa
Min Bid Price. P 2,807,000

RCBC2_SB142 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 193 sqm F.A. 77 sqm.
L30 B2 Along Barrio Rd.,
Sto. Domingo, Bay
Min Bid Price : P 360,000

RCBC1_SB340 - RSDL LOT
L.A 739 sqm
L3 B12 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min Bid Price: P 4,805,000

RCBC1_SB341 - RSDL LOT
L.A 875 sqm
L5 B5 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min Bid Price P 5,570,000

RCBC2_SB143 - RSDL LOT
L.A 575 sqm
L9 B13 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min Bid Price: P 3,500,000

RCBC1_SB344 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 271 sqm FA 150 sqm.
Bo. Sinalhan, Bo Rd., Sta. Rosa
Min Bid Price. P CALL US

RCBC1_SB157 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 40 sqm F.A. 21 sqm
B16 L8, Mamatid, St. Joseph Village
III, Cabuyao
Min Bid Price P 155,000

PAMPANGA

RCBC2_SB175 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 120 sqm F.A 67 sqm
L5 B16-A Palmera Homes, Sto. Cristo
Min Bid Price P 450,000

RCBC1_SB176 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 104 sqm F.A 30 sqm.
B7 L12 Palmera Homes
Min Bid Price. P 320,000

RCBC1_SB180 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 689 sqm F.A 260 sqm
B7 L2 Greenfields Country Club, San
Fernando
Min. Bid Price: P 4,155,000

RCBC1_SB182 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150 sqm. F.A 40 sqm.
B2 L16 Palmera Homes, Angeles
Min Bid Price. P 430,000

RCBC1_SB184 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 110 sqm F.A 32 sqm.
B1 L3 Metroclark Homes, Angeles
Min. Bid Price. P 630,000

RCBC1_SB190 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 132 sqm. F.A. 32 sqm.
B2 L12 Metroclark Homes, Angeles
Min Bid Price P 870,000

QUEZON PROVINCE

RCBC SB192 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 200 sqm FA 69 sqm
Bo. Capt. Pascual Tejada St.,
Maasin, Candelaria
Min Bid Price P 600,000

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE LEONARDO S. SARAO HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG THE HEIRS UNDER DOC #341 PAGE #70 BOOK #4 SERIES OF 2004 OF NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. GENEROSO G. MOLERA NOTARIAL REGISTRY. (PDI MAR. 11,18,27, 2005)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the extrajudicial settlement among heirs of the estate of the late CONCEPCION ONG MENDEZ on March 10, 2004 entered as Doc No 168 Page No 33 Book II Series of 2004 of Notary Public Atty Allen Grace Q Villareal-Bermejo of Iriga City. (PDI-March 13, 20 &27,2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of CRISTETA T. RAZA has been extrajudicially settled w/waiver of share by her heirs before Notary public Juan Conrado A. Respicio of Laoag City per Doc No. 330, Page No. 66, Book No. 145, Series of 2003 (PDI-Mar. 13, 20, 27, 2005)

PDI Leasing & Finance Certificate No. 16211-101,250 Shares; Certificate No. 15957-300,000 Shares under the name of VIRGINIA CHUA were declared lost. If no contest is received within 1 year new certificates will be issued. (PDI-March 20, 27 & April 3, 2005)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET
Replacement of Two (2) Central Chillers and Rehabilitation of the Centralized Airconditioning System of the DBP Head Office Building	**P42,000,000.00**

Schedule of Activities

Particulars	Date	Venue
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of April 20, 2005 (Wednesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of the Eligibility Requirement Documents	April 20, 2005 (Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.	OPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders	April 21-26, 2005	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Pre-Bidding Conference	April 27, 2005 (Wednesday) at 9:00 a.m.	OPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Building Makati City
Submission of Technical and Financial Proposlas	"On or before" 9:00 of May 18, 2005 (Wednesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Technical and Financial Proposals	May 18, 2005 (Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m.	OPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Building Makati City

Application for eligibility check is open to central chillers suppliers who have supplied/delivered and installed Central Chillers/Centralized Airconditioning Systems for not less than five (5) years and organized under the laws of the Philippines and must be 75% owned by citizens of the Philippines. Interested parties may download the eligibility requirement checklist at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Eligible bidders may secure the bid documents from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php20,000.00.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 series of 2003 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The Bank reserves the right to reject documents that do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call Telephone Numbers 8126375/8151613.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–March 20 & 27, 2005)

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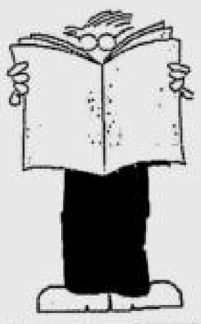

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 03-11-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested contractors in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Project : Comprehensive Service Maintenance Agreement for Computers, Printers, Scanners and other related equipment
Contract Duration : Two (2) years
Approved Budget : Eight Million Five Hundred Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred & 00/100 Pesos (P 8,544,800.00)
Source of Funds : Internally Funded

Only contractors duly registered with PAGCOR may be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from March 15, 2005 to April 8, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Four Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Two Pesos & 40/100 (Php 4,272.40).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

Pre-Bid Conference : March 29, 2005 (2:00 pm)
Submission of Bids : April 11, 2005 (2:00 pm)
Opening of Bids : April 11, 2005 (2:00 pm onwards)

PAGCOR has the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government *(R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).*

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd) RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO
Chairperson, BAC 3

(PDI - March 20 & 27, 2005)

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You will learn to:
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- select the right intervention
- design implementation matrix
- evaluate and measure outcomes

Who Should Attend?
- Team Leaders
- Supervisors
- Line Managers
- anyone responsible in setting and achieving targets

Expected Output:
You will design your own continuing improvement matrix using the S.C.O.R.E. model

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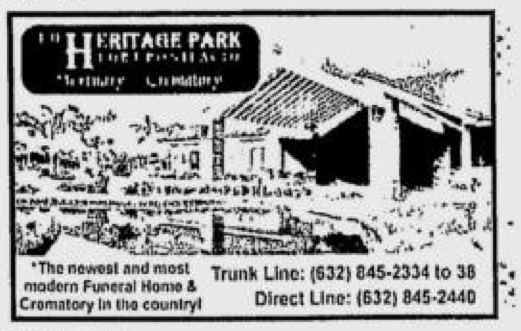
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So dearly loved....
So fondly remembered....

Wilfredo H. Castro

Has peacefully joined his Creator on
March 25, 2005 at the age of 47

He shall be truly missed by his wife Alma,
His Children: Trizia, Kristian and Bianca,
His mother: Caridad,
His brothers & sisters-in-law, nephews & nieces:
Junior & Cita - Joseph, Caragee, Dian & Caren
Cornelio & Candida - Nathaniel & Claudine
Carlo & Jane - Jeff & CJ

And his Uncles, Aunties, Cousins, other relatives and friends

Mortuary and Crematory
Heritage Park

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

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"God has a reason for allowing
things to happen, we may never
understand His wisdom but we
simply have to trust His will."

Teresita Cababahay Guadalquiver

Has peacefully joined her Creator on
March 26, 2005 at the age of 62

Her loving husband Roger

Children & Grandchildren:	Jun - Beah	:	Leanza, Lindsay
	Ryan - Becca	:	Rance
	Roy - Ena	:	Renzo
	Tessa		
Mother:	Luisa		

Brothers, Sister, Relatives and friends request prayers for her everlasting joy in the company of the angels and the saints

Her body lies in state at chapel 6 of the Heritage Park Mortuary and Crematory

Interment is on March 30, 2005 at The Heritage Park after the 9:00am Mass.

Mortuary and Crematory
at
Heritage Park

LEONORA CARREON CUCUECO

Loving wife of **Armin Cucueco Sr.**
Mother of **Armin Jr.** and **Mildred, Ninon** and
Peping, Rene and **Alice, Mel** and **Melissa,**
and **Clorinda**
Grandmother of **Armi May, Cecile, Armin John**
and **Armin Brian**
Nicole and **Justin**
Benjamin and **Aries**
Czarinna, Joshua, Sassja and **Zachary**
Eric, Rochelle and **Andrea**

Her remains lie at the Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Q.C. Interment will be announced at a later date.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

Our Dearly Beloved Father

MAYOR DOMINADOR "DOMING" DOMINGO-GONZALES

November 5, 1939 – March 21, 2005

Municipal Mayor, Paombong, Bulacan - 1998-2005
Municipal Vice Mayor - 1992-1998
Municipal Councilor - 1968-1986
An effective and successful corporate man, professional and businessman

peacefully joined his Creator on March 21, 2005 at the age of 65.

He is survived by his bereaved wife **Manuela "Lilian" Timoteo-Gonzales**; his children **Jose Aristotle** and **Michelle, Maria Cristina** and **Richard, Andres II** and **Melissa**, and **Maria Cecilia** and **Eric**; siblings **Simeona, Pedro, Victoria, Asuncion**, and **Rosendo**; grandchildren **Angela Charise, Jose Antonio, Jose Emmanuel, Abigail, Joshua** and **John.**

His remains lie in state at 197 San Jose, Paombong, Bulacan. Interment will be on Sunday, 27 March 2005 at the Paombong Cemetery after the 11 a.m. Luksang Parangal and 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Saint James the Apostle Parish, Paombong, Bulacan.

Please join us in prayer for the eternal repose of the soul of **KA DOMING**, an ardent believer and God-fearing man, an honest, hardworking, devoted public servant who dedicated most of his life to the people of Paombong, Bulacan, a very loving and sweet husband, a very good, caring and responsible father, and a doting grandfather.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS •
DEATH ANNIVERSARY •
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Mayor Mel & Nene Aguilar

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98th Founding Anniversary
March 26 and 27, 2005

Vice Mayor Louie Bustamante Councilors: Dennis Aguilar, Roger Alejandro, Berlin Dela Cruz, Rene Dumlao, Danny Hernandez, Eddie Lezarda, Henry Medina, Steve Miranda, Boy Salvador, Mark Anthony Santos, Jun Suliguin and Boy Villaraza

---

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Expansion of Dual Education and Training (EDET)

Loan No. BMZ 2000 66 142
Tender No. ICB-EDET-02-05

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received loan No. BMZ 2000 66 142 of EURO 7.338 million from the German Development Bank (KfW) towards the cost of the Expansion of Dual Education and Training (EDET) Project, implemented by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply, delivery, testing, installation and training on equipment.

   The preliminary cost estimate are as follows:

Lot No.	Technology Area	Agency Budget Estimate (in Euro)
Lot 4:	Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (HVACR)	140,000.00
Lot 5:	Health Care	140,000.00
Lot 6a:	Agriculture – Farm Equipment	220,000.00
Lot 6b:	Agriculture – Food Processing	180,000.00
Lot 8:	Fisheries	140,000.00
Lot 9:	Computer and Audio Visual	240,000.00
Lot 10:	Educational Furniture	70,000.00
Lot 11:	Tourism	170,000.00

2. The pre-qualification will be conducted per lot. Eligible Applicants are manufacturers or suppliers without limitation to nationality. The formation of a consortium is acceptable, provided a lead partner is designated. An applicant not established in the Philippines is required to have an authorized agent or local branch in the Philippines, capable of rendering after-service, including handling of warranty claims as well as technical support of equipment included in the tendered lots.
3. There is no restriction on the origin of the goods to be offered.
4. Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information from TESDA and inspect the prequalification document during government working days from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning March 28, 2005.
5. The pre-qualification documents may be purchased by interested applicants on the submission of a written application to TESDA at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of EURO 20 or Philippine Pesos 1500 to defray the cost of tendering. Foreign applicant shall deposit their payment for purchase of Pre-qualification Documents thru Bank Transfer to: BSP Account Number 021085295 Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to Treasurer of the Philippines FCD Dollar Account.

   Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
   The Chairman
   Bids and Awards Committee
   East Service Road, South Superhighway
   Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
   Philippines
   Tel No. +63-2-8885798
   Fax No. +63-2-8179040

   Alternatively, the pre-qualification documents may be obtained from KfW through

   GOPA Consultants
   Hindenburging 18, D-61348 Bad Homburg, Germany
   Attention: Ms. Beate Mueller
   Fax No.: +49-6172-930550
   Tel No.: +49-6172-930537
   E-mail Address: beate.mueller@gopa.de

6. All banking charges and fees related to the purchase of the pre-qualification documents such as bank transfer shall be for applicant's account. Bank checks are not acceptable.
7. Applications for pre-qualification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, clearly marked "Application to Pre-qualify for EDET Project for the supply of training equipment, tools, publications, computer, audio-visual equipment and accessories. Application must be delivered at the address of TESDA on or before 0900 hours (local time) on May 3, 2005. Application will be opened in the presence of applicants' representatives, who choose to attend at 0930 hours (local time), on May 3, 2005.

(Sgd.) **MILAGROS DAWA-HERNANDEZ**
Officer-In-Charge
(Deputy Director General for Sectoral TVET)

(PDI–March 27 & April 3, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : *Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)*
Loan No. : *Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI*
Description of Works : *Construction and Development of two (2) Linear Parks at the DBM and PUP compounds along Pasig River*

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB towards the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contracts for DBM Linear Park Project and PUP Linear Park Project
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract packages:

Contract Package	Construction and Development of the DBM North Linear Park	Construction and Development of the PUP Linear Park
Contract No.	EPA-LPP-21	EPA-LPP-22
Area	2,749.13 sq.m.	3,357.00 sq.m.
Location	Department of Budget and Management (DBM), San Miguel, Manila	Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), Sta. Mesa, Manila
Contract Duration	180 Calendar Days	
Project Description	Construction and development of linear park/promenade which includes the following items of work: General Requirements, Site Work, Site improvement, Paving/Surfacing, Site Furniture, Electrical, Drainage, Landscaping/Softscape, Canteen, Garbage House, and Fountain	Construction and development of linear park/ promenage which includes the following items of work: General Requirements, Site Work/Earthworks, Site improvement, Paving/Surfacing, Site Furniture, Electrical, Drainage/Plumbing, Landscaping/Softscape, and Canteen

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity		Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 12,500.00		From Mar. 21 to April 4, 2005	From 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	PRRC 2F MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and Inspection of Bidding Documents		From Mar. 21 to April 4, 2005	From 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM		For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
Site Inspection	DBM North Linear Park	April 21, 2005	10:00 AM	DBM, San Miguel Manila	
	PUP Linear Park	April 22, 2005	11:00 AM	PUP, Sta. Mesa, Manila	
Pre-Bid Conference	DBM North Linear Park	April 21, 2005	10:00 AM	DBM, San Miguel Manila	Right after the Site Inspection
	PUP Linear Park	April 22, 2005	11:00 AM	PUP, Sta. Mesa, Manila	Right after the Site Inspection
Deadline for submission of Bids	DBM North Linear Park	May 4, 2005	10:00 AM	PRRC (same address)	Late bids (bids submitted after 10 AM) shall not be accepted
	PUP Linear Park	May 5, 2005	10:00 AM		
Opening of Bids	DBM North Linear Park	May 4, 2005	10:00 AM	PRRC (same address)	Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders
	PUP Linear Park	May 5, 2005	10:00 AM		

4. The Department of Budget and Management shall be the implementing agency of the DBM Linear Park Project and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines shall be the implementing agency of the PUP Linear Park Project.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check/Prequalification, Bid Evaluation, and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the *"Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers"* pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 and ADB Guidelines for the Procurement of Civil Works as standardized under the harmonized ADB-GOP Procurement of Works guidelines.
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-344
Email Adress: prrc@tri-sys.com
Fax No. 926-5234

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Developer cites need to address housing backlog

A NICHE player in the property sector has cited the need for the development of modern housing enclaves to meet the needs for housing of the country's expanding middle class.

"The country's housing backlog, which is estimated at around 2 million units, is increasing at a rate of 400,000 units annually. The continuous growth of the economy has enlarged our middle class, boosting the demand for higher quality residential homes," said Francisco J. Buencamino, president of Breezewoods Development Corp.

Buencamino said housing developers have to tap this segment of Philippine society by offering more affordable units with easy access to commercial business districts and which suit their longing for healthy lifestyles.

"As more Filipinos from the provinces become office workers in Metro Manila, developers need to design for them houses in a serene environment, which is at the same time close to business centers where they work," he said.

A good example of such environment, he said, is Marikina City, which won the nod of the World Health Organization for being one of the world's healthy cities.

Marikina City, known for its well-planned urban setting and green surrounding, is a few minutes away from business districts, industrial centers, shopping malls, schools, and hospitals in neighboring cities of Quezon, Pasig, Mandaluyong and Antipolo.

Buencamino said that in its attempt to provide middle class urban settlers with the serenity of the rural environment, Breezewoods Development Corp has developed a low-cost condominium complex in Marikina City.

Known as the Breezewoods Royale, the project is a four-storey building composed of 70 housing units and 10 commercial shops that provide services to the residents. Such shops include a pharmacy, a convenience store, a bookstore, and a laundry center.

Designed by architect Eric Vincent L. Yusingco, Breezewoods Royale, the only medium-rise building in its vicinity along Katipunan Street near the Social Security System Village, was started in December last year and is expected to be completed by November 2005.

Buencamino said it was designed in such as way that residents can take the pleasure of living the healthy lifestyle under the comforts for their new homes in Marikina City.

"On top of being affordable and accessible to life's essentials, Breezewoods Royale is a product of emergency preparedness planning. Certainly, the project allows residents to celebrate life to the fullest," he said.

He said their target buyers are office workers and employees in Marikina, Quezon City, Pasig, Mandaluyong and Antipolo. Each unit, measuring 35 square meters, sells at affordable prices ranging from P1.1 million to P1.2 million.

Breezewoods has partnered with Pag-ibig Fund to enable the buyers to pay the unit through a monthly participation of P10,000 to P12,000. "We are focusing on meeting the demand for low-cost and medium-cost housing as we believe that hig-end residential projects address only a very limited market of the few affording sector of the population. We want to stay in the industry where the demand is," Buencamino said.

Incorporated in 1995, Breezewoods Development Corp is the same company, which developed the 1,300-unit Breezewoods Homes in Bacoor, Cavite. It also has a small pocket project in Pampanga.

FREEDOM TO LIVE YOUR LIFE

COCOLIFE, SPHERES ACTIVATION SPECIALIST FORMALIZE AGREEMENT

Cocolife and Spheres Activation Specialist Inc recently formalized an agreement that will enable the employees of Spheres Activation Specialist Inc to enjoy life insurance and retirement benefits under Cocolife's Group Retirement Plan. Spheres Activation Specialist Inc is engaged in the business of promotion, research and conceptualization of products and services for individuals, partnerships or corporations. It is also engaged in general advertising using any form of media such as radio, television, billboards and prints. Present during the awarding were (from left) Cocolife head of mass marketing department lawyer Francisco Nob; Cocolife head of marketing and franchising MMD Nikko de Guzman-Ledesma; Cocolife South Luzon Area head Benedict A. Moro; Spheres president/CEO Emiliano M. Quiday Jr. and Cocolife Calamba branch manager Belit I. Elazegui.

Dell launches two new servers

DELL recently introduced two new servers – the PowerEdge 800 server, a single-processor general-purpose tower server that provides greater performance, expandability and deployment flexibility in a 1P server, and separately the PowerEdge SC1425 server, a powerful 1U server specifically designed to meet the requirements of supercomputing cluster and distributed Web farms, where performance and cost are customers' top priority.

The PowerEdge 800 server is the first Dell 1P server to feature a 3.6GHz single Intel Pentium 4 processor with 64-bit memory addressability, DDR2-400/533 memory, PCI Express adapter slots as well as easy-exchange SCSI hard drive for simplified serviceability or hard-drive replacement. It offers full-server functionality at low cost, addressing the needs of file/print sharing, workgroup applications, remote offices and retail/point-of-sale environments.

Other features in the PowerEdge 800 include: Single Intel Pentium 4 processor with Intel Extended Memory 64 Technology (EM64T) and 800 MHz front side bus or single Intel Celeron processor at up to 2.53Ghz; ECC memory, which allows the system to tolerate a single-bit memory chip error on a DIMM and continue operating without interruption; RAID 0,1,5 SATA or SCSI controller cards to take full advantage of high performing, reliable RAID configurations; Support for either IDE (PowerVaultTM 100T IDE) or SCSI drives (PowerVault 110T DAT72, and PowerVault 110T DLTVS160); Delivered with Dell OpenManage 4TM for easy systems management.

The PowerEdge SC1425 server, on the other hand, delivers the latest server technologies for performance, such as 64 bit memory addressing, DDR-2 memory, and advanced I/O technologies, at a great value by focusing on the features necessary for high-performance computing. This design enables customers to invest more in overall computing power for their distributed configurations, since large-scale clusters or extensive Web farms are typically managed for failover and availability at the application level.

"This server is specifically tailored for the unique requirements of high-performance cluster computing," said Damian Crotty, director for enterprise, Dell Asia. "Unlike a more general-purpose server, the PowerEdge SC1425 is built from the ground up to be a hot-swappable unit within a server cluster or Web farm."

Dell is currently the leader in Linux cluster market with 54 percent unit share of the worldwide Intel-based Linux technical cluster market.

Dell will offer the new PowerEdge SC1425 server in its high-performance computing cluster (HPCC) bundles with 8-, 16-, 32-, 64-, 128- and 256-node configurations running Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3. PowerEdge SC1425 servers are available with Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Standard or Web Edition and Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3.0, 32 bit or 64 bit editions.

Other features include: Dual Intel Xeon EM64T processors with hyper-threading for performance and scalability; 800MHz front side bus for improved memory performance; Up to 12GB of DDR-2 memory provides more memory with higher density of previous Dell systems; and Embedded dual GB Ethernet NICs for high-performance I/O capabilities.

For more information please visit www.dell.com/poweredge. For pictures of the PowerEdge SC1425, visit www.dell.com/photos. For more information on the Dell HPCC program, visit www.dell.com/hpcc.

Meet & Assist Program
PRESS LAUNCHING

GLOBE, DOT LAUNCH MEET AND ASSIST PROGRAM TO WELCOME TOURISTS IN CEBU

The Meet and Assist program, which trains interpreters to greet and assist tourists arriving at the airport, was recently inaugurated at the Mactan Cebu International Airport. The project was borne out of Globe Telecom's longstanding partnership with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and was previously launched at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila. Under the program, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and English interpreters will be stationed at two booths located near the airport's domestic and international arrival areas. They are trained by the DOT to welcome foreign visitors and handle common inquiries such as directions to hotels and tourist spots and inquiries about transportation, immigration procedures, or telecommunication services. DOT Secretary Joseph 'Ace' Durano explained that the program is in line with the DOT's current thrust, which focuses on tourists from East Asian countries, who comprised the majority of tourist arrivals last year. He also thanked Globe for being a valued partner in promoting Philippine tourism, saying, 'Globe Telecom is a very important and supportive partner in promoting the tourism industry.' DOT and Globe plan to expand the program to other Philippine ports of entry, in order to further promote the Philippines' reputation as the friendliest country in Asia. In the photo, Durano and Globe's head of international services, Nikko Acosta (fourth and fifth from left) reaffirm their partnership. They are joined by (left to right): DOT Office of Tourism Information Director Eduardo Jarque Jr., Mactan Airport General Manager Lt. Gen. (retired) Adelberto Yap, DOT Director for Central Visayas Patria Roa, DOT Asst. Sec. Phineas Alburo, Mactan Airport Immigration Head Jun Madarang.

ProGifted Kids at 1st MI Convention

WYETH'S ProGifted Kids were featured at the 1st Multiple Intelligences Convention held recently at the Manila Hotel. The Convention "Changing Minds - Teaching and Parenting for the 21st Century," promoted the recognition and appreciation of multiple intelligences advocated by Dr. Howard Gardner, author of the Multiple Intelligences Theory. Dr. Gardner likewise focused on ways to encourage the development of multiple intelligences in children via alternative educational methods.

An exhibit showcased the achievements of Promil Kids, each of whom manifested one of Dr. Gardner's intelligences. Fourteen-year-old public speaker Ryan Tumbocon showed advanced Linguistic Intelligence for being named 2004 Debate Champion; the capacity to use language and perhaps other languages to understand and communicate with other people. Thirteen-year-old mathematician Neon Antonio signified Logical-Mathematical Intelligence for winning the 2003 silver medal at the Asia Pacific Math Olympiad, and 3rd place at the 2004 National Quiz Bee. Seventeen-year-old painter CJ de Silva embodied Spatial Intelligence for holding 5 major exhibits and winning 175 art awards.

Twelve-year-old actor Jiro Manio exhibited Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence for his 12 Best Actor Awards; the capacity to use the parts of the body to solve a problem, make something, or put some kind of production. Fourteen-year-old violinist Junior Saraza displayed Musical Intelligence for being the youngest member and soloist of the Manila Symphony Orchestra II. Fourteen-year-old multi-gifted child Cy Tamura proved to have Interpersonal Intelligence for his leadership qualities as well as his outstanding achievements in music, art and literature.

Fifteen-year-old scientist Joy Anne Aquino revealed to have Naturalist Intelligence for winning first place honors at the 55th International Science and Engineering Fair. Sixteen-year-old robotics designer Adrian Owyong demonstrated Intrapersonal Intelligence for his deep knowledge and understanding of self which drove his passion to lead the Philippine Team to a silver medal at the International Robotics Competition.

The parents of the ProGifted Kids acknowledged the benefits for providing their children with the right nutrition during the crucial stages of their children's early development. With essential nutrients in the right amounts to help develop the brain, thus, help increase learning capacity, Wyeth Promil Kid helps nourish the multiple intelligences in every child.

DEALER OF THE YEAR

Top executives, officers and employees of Chevrolet Pampanga led by chair and CEO Levy P. Laus (center, front row) are joined by General Motors Phils president James Lim (3rd, left) and product and marketing services manager Bobby Shaw (left) as they pose behind a giant check for P1 million after winning the 2004 Dealer of the Year and Grand Master of the Year awards at the Manila Polo Club on Feb. 22. Others in photo are (from left) Carisa Laus-Manalili, managing director (holding the winner's trophy); Nitz Razon, vice president for sales and Tess Laus.

ProductFILES

The new Jolly Beef Rice, delightful beefy goodness

THERE seems to be a commotion on the streets. Everywhere you go, there's an unmistakable beef-ening sound in the air. People young and old are heading on to Jollibee for a taste of something new, exciting and deliciously good to eat. They've all heard about the latest buzz about the latest rice meal to hit town, the new Jolly Beef Rice. It's a mouthwatering serving of rice topped with tender beef chunks, zesty potatoes and carrots cooked in rich tomato sauce. It's an energizing and power-packed meal for any time of the day, whether in the middle of a busy lunch hour or at dinnertime with friends and family. Try this delightful and filling rice fare for only P55, add P10 more and get a regular drink. So the next time your stomach gets a craving for something hot, fresh and fast, make a trip to the nearest Jollibee store for a serving of the new Jolly Beef Rice. "Ang Jolly Beef Rice sa Jollibee, Bida ang Sarap."

Prominent educator joins First Asia Institute

PROMINENT educator Dr. Ofelia Caraque recently joined First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities as an independent director. Dr. Caraque is the 10th president of PUP where she stayed for 34 years. She was the first dean of the College of Computer Management and Information Technology (CCMIT), vice president for academic affairs, head of branches and extension services before attaining her position as chief executive officer or president of the university. One of the country's leading exponents in information technology, she was the president for two consecutive years of the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines (ITFP). Dr. Caraque holds Doctoral and Masteral degrees in Business Administration and Educational courses from PUP. As an independent director, Dr. Caraque will bring in her experience to further enhance First Asia Institute's academic programs especially in the fields of engineering, information technology and computer science. Dr. Caraque joins former president of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc (SEIPI), Francis Ferrer as an independent director of the institute. These efforts are being done to strengthen the institutional/corporate governance of FIA.

MTC ACADEMY OPENS FRANCHISE IN CALOOCAN

Medical transcription as a career is currently one of the most attractive employment opportunities given its tremendous demand not only in the United States but also in other parts of the globe. Given severe global and local shortage of medical transcriptionists, extensive opportunities abound for full-time and part-time MT practitioners to establish a profitable and stable career in medical transcription. MTC Academy offers multiple opportunities for parties interested in franchising an educational and Information Communications Technology service-oriented programs. Recently, it opened its latest franchise in Caloocan City with (shown in photo, from left) Warren Tiu, MTC Caloocan school administrator, Anthony Lim, MTC Caloocan president, and Chris Filoteo, MTC Learning Systems franchise sales officer. Since its inception two years ago, other MTC branches and franchises include East Avenue, DCTI-MTC in Diliman, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Makati, Cavite City and Dasmarinas in Cavite, Alabang in Muntinlupa, Sucat in Paranaque, Batangas City, Cebu City and University Belt in Manila. For inquiries, please contact 890-7319/72, 896-9973/78 or log in at www.mtcacademy.com or email at admin@mtcacademy.com.

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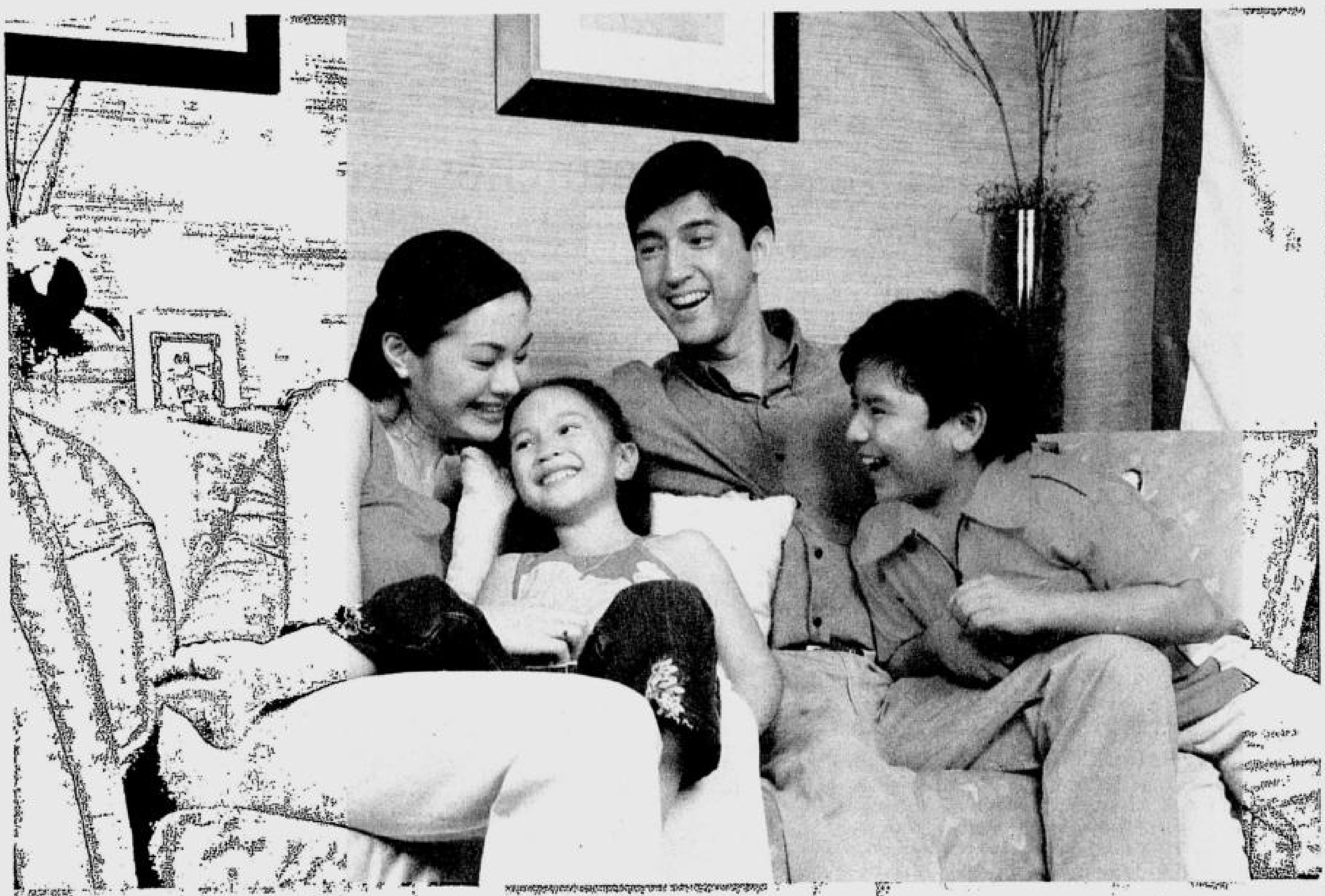

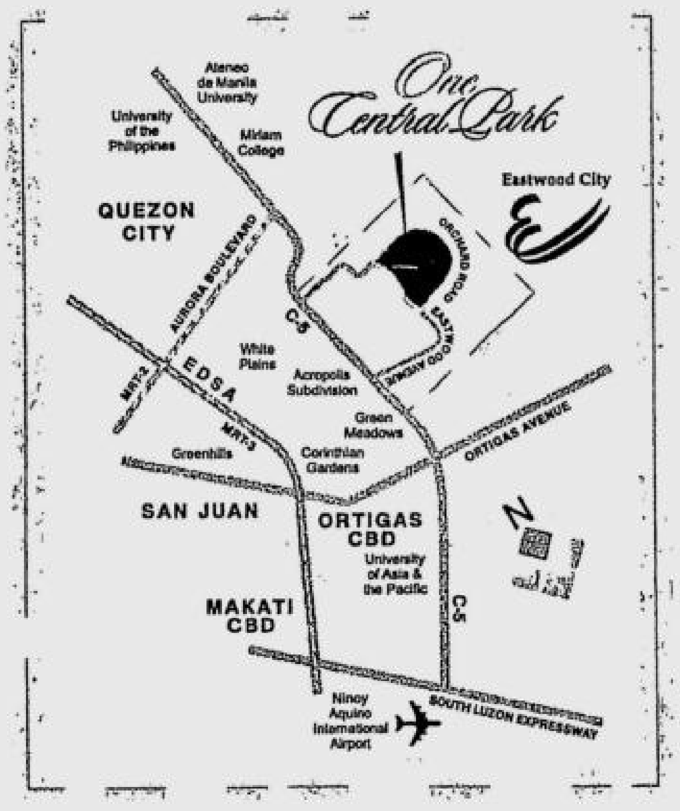

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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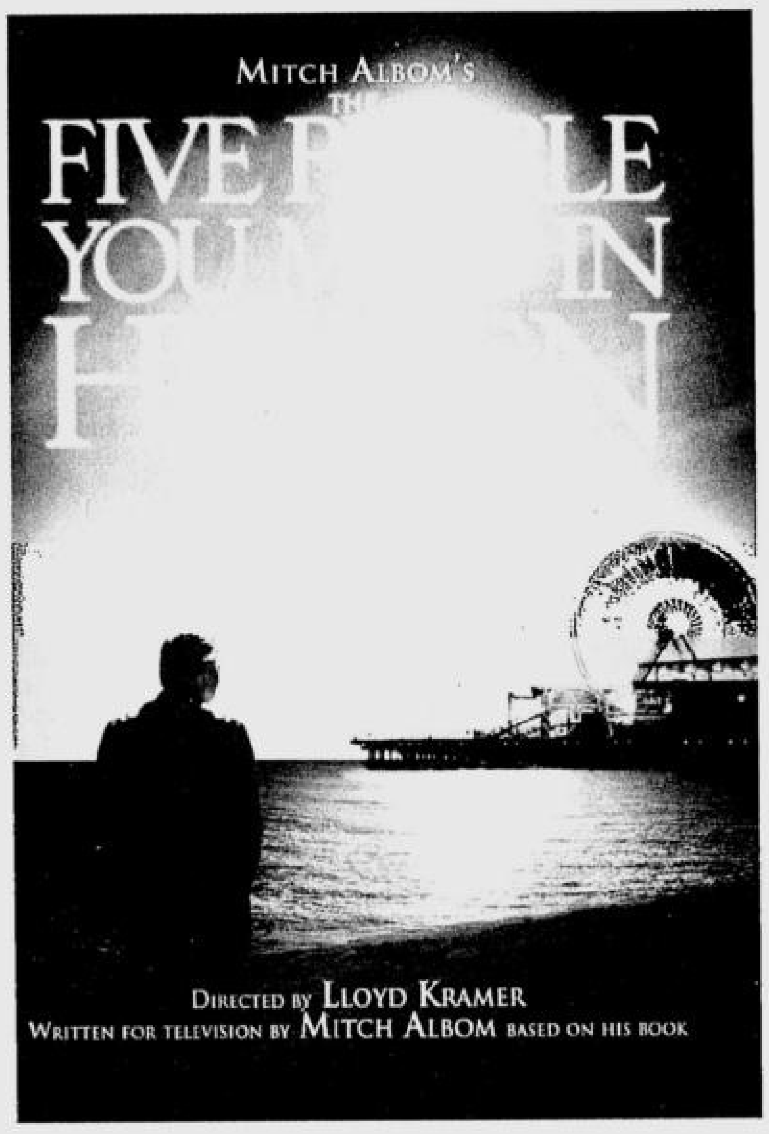
INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Heaven according to Mitch Albom


MITCH ALBOM'S
THE
FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN
DIRECTED BY LLOYD KRAMER
WRITTEN FOR TELEVISION BY MITCH ALBOM BASED ON HIS BOOK

There is no insignificant life, says this best-selling author

By Cathy S. Babao Guballa
Contributor

THE NEW York Times bestseller "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" is about an old man who finds the meaning of his life through the five people whom he meets when he gets to heaven.

Eddie, the book's lead character, is a mechanic who spends practically all his life working in an amusement park. At the end of his life, he meets five people who tell him about crucial events that have transpired in his 83 years. Among the people Eddie meets is a young girl named Tala, who tells him about his important mission in what has been to him an "insignificant" life.

INQUIRER had the opportunity to do a phone interview with Mitch Albom, author of the thought-provoking and moving bestseller, as he was on his way to catch a flight back to the United States from Sydney, Australia.

The movie adaptation of "The Five People You Meet In Heaven"—starring Jon Voight, Ellen Burstyn, Jeff Daniels, Dagmara Dominczyk and Michel Imperioli—premieres on the Hallmark Channel on April 17. This is Al-

HEAVEN/ C2

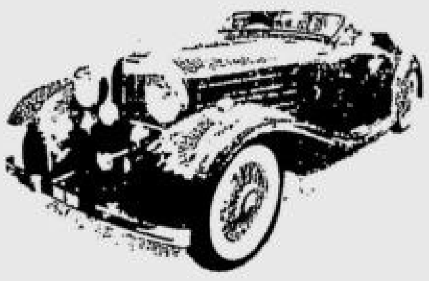
IN THIS ISSUE

PERAMBULATION with compassion /E2

GET WELL at this temple /F1

BADMINTON buddies, now newlyweds /G4

GRADUATING in terno /H2



FAMILIES and their Benzes /M1

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To set MMS settings on your phone, text SET MMS <phone model> to 211. Ex. SET MMS N6600.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1513, Series of 2005.
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Heaven according to Mitch Albom

From page C1

bom's second bestseller and movie after the highly successful "Tuesdays With Morrie."

There seems to be a strong Filipino element in your book. Among them, the World War II scenes and the young girl named Tala. How did that come about?

My Uncle Eddie was really a WWII veteran and he had fought in the Philippines during WWII. Those scenes from the book were recreated from my memory of stories told by him as I was growing up.

And what about the young girl named Tala? Why did you choose that name?

I searched the Internet for the name of a Filipino little girl and Tala seemed like a pretty name. I didn't know back then what it meant exactly. Then after the book came out, Filipinos would come up to me and tell me what the name meant. They thought I had picked it out intentionally because they thought I wanted something like "star in heaven" but I was really amazed to find out the meaning of the name.

You use a lot of Filipino words in Eddie's conversations with her. Did you pick up those words from having a lot of Filipino friends?

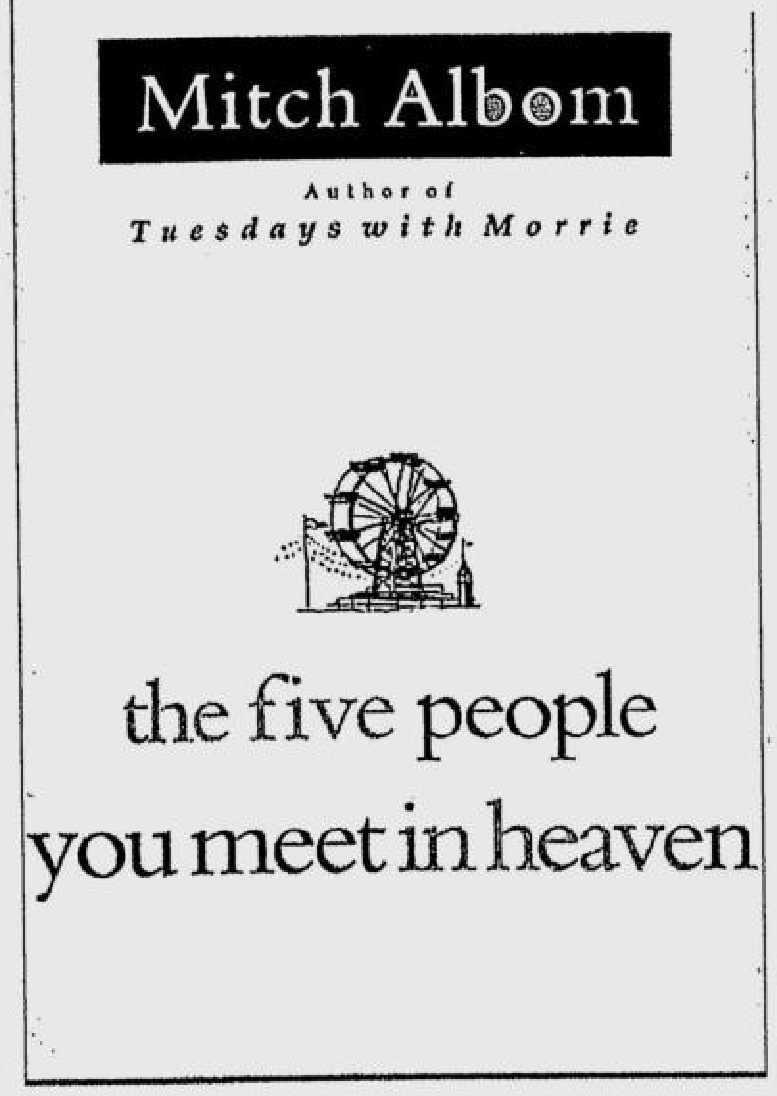
Not really. I didn't know too many Filipinos back when I was writing the book so an acquaintance helped me with the Filipino words. I had to grab the first person I knew [who] could speak the language.

And the prison scenes? Did they really happen in the Philippines?

The prison scenes, those really took place back there. The scene at the coal mines with the Japanese, I tried to make as accurate as possible. I knew that someday someone from the Philippines would be reading my book and I didn't want people to come up to me and say, "Hey, that couldn't have possibly happened." And look, we're having this conversation now. (Laughter) What Uncle Eddie experienced there also happened to so many other American soldiers who fought in the war.

Please tell me a little more about Uncle Eddie.

Uncle Eddie was my grandmother's brother and he's really a lot like the Eddie character in the book. He died when he was 83 years old. Growing up, we had a lot of family get-togethers and I would interact with him often. He was also short, grizzled, a tough guy who told a lot of war stories and felt that his life was insignificant. I am hoping to pay tribute to him through this book.



Mitch, you seem to be filled with a lot of wisdom. Your stories are rich with life lessons that resonate in the hearts of your readers. Many people who have read you think that you are this warm and wise 60-year-old who has seen a lot of life to be able to impart those lessons. Where do you draw these lessons? Where does this wisdom come from?

Thank you for thinking that I am wise. (Chuckles) But whatever I know has come from older, wiser people. People I learned from like Morrie and Uncle Eddie who in the twilight of their years knew a lot about the important lessons of life.

You mentioned that you liked to listen to stories from older people? Have you always been this way even as a child?

Yes. In our family, during gatherings, after a meal, the older relatives would come and call the kids and they liked to tell stories over and over again about the war, how they came to America, their early experiences. In the beginning there would be a huge crowd of kids listening but as the stories went on and on, you know how kids are, one after another they would disappear until I would be the only one left, my chin cupped by both hands asking one uncle about this particular story, asking another aunt to tell me this particular story. And the elders would never tire of telling stories. It didn't matter to them if you were an audience of one. So long as someone cared enough to listen, they would go on and tell stories. I just liked hearing them, and memorizing every detail. I didn't know back then that I would use them someday.

JON Voight

MITCH Albom

My favorite line in the book is "All endings are also beginnings. We just don't know it at that time." How has this been proven true in your life?

"Tuesdays with Morrie" is the perfect example of that. Morrie's life ended, I didn't know that my visits to him would result in the passing on of life lessons, of a book that would be read all over the world. It's like that saying, "When a door closes, a window opens." I've seen that in my life countless times.

There is so much one can take away after reading your book. Among the many lessons imparted in "The Five People...," which ones would you like your reader to remember?

First would be the lesson that Eddie learned from his wife. That just because someone dies, love doesn't have to stop, that you can't go on loving that person because you can—but loving in a different way. You can continue to hold them in your hearts. You keep their memory alive in some other way. I use the analogy of the penny and the piggy bank. You place a penny inside a piggy bank, you don't see it visually, you can't hold on to it anymore, but when you shake the piggy bank, it makes a sound and you just know that it's there. You believe it's there. When someone dies, or goes away, you can hold on to their memory in many ways.

The second lesson I wish readers would take with them is that there is no insignificant life. Just by living and interacting with someone, you affect that person's life. You may not know it at that time, but you do. Never feel insignificant because any act you do will affect somebody.

I know that your altruism is felt not only in your work but extends to some real life projects as well and that you do a lot of charity work in Detroit. How did that come about?

Before visiting with Morrie, I founded The Dream Fund, which provides scholarships in the arts for children in order to keep them away from gangs, drugs and trouble. I was blessed enough to be able to have an education, I felt that this was my way of helping kids stay out of trouble and at the same time help them learn.

Then Morrie always used to say that you should be actively involved in your community, not just writing a check but really getting actively involved. "A Time to Help" is a program where once a month, we get together with a group of people from the community to do projects—building a home, packing food, teaching classes. We encourage people to go some place close to where they live and actually do something for their community.

Not everyone who has had success do something for the less fortunate or give back the way that you have done. Where does this altruism stem from?

Whatever success I have had came about because it was given to me. I didn't invent something and make a great deal of money out of it. The stories I pass on were also just passed on to me. I don't feel right about keeping them all to myself. It's not for me to keep but to give back as well. I wish I could do more. So right now I'm just doing the best that I can. You owe something to somebody all the time. You just give back the kindness that you yourself have received.

"The Five People You Meet in Heaven" is available at National Book Store and PowerBooks.

E-mail the author at cathyguballa@yahoo.com

Easter special treats for the family

THE PODIUM celebrates Easter with fun, treats and surprises today. At the mall's Lounge area, the fun begins with Easter Crafts, with kids dabbling in Toy Kingdom's Coloring Contest or painting pretty Easter eggs at Color Me Mine's Easter Egg Painting activity. They can also create their own cool jewelry at Wildflower's Bead a Necklace Activity, or put the puzzle pieces together at the Jigsaw Shop, or join in Landes' exciting dexterity games.

The Easter Crafts activity area will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kids can hunt for specially hidden eggs in the Lounge Area and win exciting prizes from 1:30 to 4 p.m, or hop over to the Giant Easter Egg Basket, pick an egg and win instant prizes from the mall's participating shops such as Toy Kingdom, Wildflower, Landes, Watsons, the Jigsaw Shop, Baby & Co., Color Me Mine, The Podium Cinema, SM Appliance Center, Master's Wok, Astroplus, Dippin' Dots and Candy Corner. Cap the day with a souvenir photo beside the mall's Giant Easter Egg!

Egg hunt craze

TREAT the whole family to a fun-filled Easter celebration as Dreamscape, the fully air-conditioned indoor theme park and family entertainment center, welcomes the special day with an "egg-citing" Easter Egg Hunting Craze 2005.

The Easter Egg Hunting Craze is a special Easter Sunday fare held annually by Dreamscape. Registration starts 10 a.m. at the Dreamscape lobby. Taking part in this fun-filled Easter craze is easy. Simply buy one Dream day (ride-all-you-can) ticket. All active Robinsons Dream Centers (RDC) Club members are automatically qualified to join.

Aside from the traditional egg-hunting challenge, Easter Egg Hunt Craze 2005 has many exciting activities like an egg-painting contest and thrilling parlor games designed for an enjoyable Easter experience for the whole family. Call 6362911/6317329/ 6317594.

Goodies and surprises

BRITTANY Corporation has a bundle of goodies and surprises in store for both kids and kids-at-heart this Easter Sunday. Make Crosswinds in Tagaytay, Portofino in Alabang and La Posada in Brittany Bay your fun and vibrant playgrounds for a jolly Easter Egg Hunt. All these sites will also hold a magic show to dazzle the senses, and face painting festivities to add color to your smile. Also, let your kids start the summer right with art workshops at Portofino today, on April 3 and 10.

There's still time to catch the next three Sundays so don't miss it. Art workshops for kids ages 3-6 is from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. while workshops for kids ages 7-12 starts from 2 to 4 p.m. Call 8506986, 8502868 or 8503359.

Surprises for kids

NESTLE Philippines, Inc. kicks off its 1st Loot Raiders' Party today, 10 a.m., at Manila Zoo. The fun begins with the Easter egg hunt. Kids also get the chance to win prizes at game booths like Milo Bar Basketball Shootfest, Knick Knacks Fish-a-Prize, Smarties' Parent-Child Design-Your-Easter-Egg contest and Milky Bar Ring Toss. They can also do face painting, caricature and balloon twisting while their parents can have a massage at Kitkat Corner.

For a purchase of Nestle products worth P100, children can participate in the games. Call 3301506.

Celebrating a momentous affair

CELEBRATE Easter with the family at Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila. Kids can join Circus Circus that offers exciting games and live entertainment, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., today at Le Salon. Children can enjoy a magic show, get their face painted or have a glitter tattoo. They can also visit the kiddie salon.

Highlight of the afternoon is the traditional egg hunt every 30 minutes. Kids can win exciting prizes and also get loot bags.

Admission for adults is P600 and, for children aged 6-12, P200. Hotel guests and restaurant patrons pay the discounted rate of P200. The fee is inclusive of a buffet.

The family can also enjoy an elaborate lunch buffet at Market Café. Charge for adults is P1,150 ++ each and for children, P575 ++ each. Call 2451234.

MANILA DIAMOND Hotel's Palm Court Cafe celebrates Easter with exciting activities today. Bring your family to an Easter family lunch buffet at P850++ per person, enjoy face painting with the kids and go Easter egg hunting.

DISCOVERY COUNTRY Suites Tagaytay's Restaurant Verbena presents The Perfect Hatch! Easter brunch today, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Featured dishes are Homemade Pancakes, Assorted Pinoy Longganisa, Fresh Aklan Oysters with Assorted Toppings, Assorted Country Tapas and Crostini, Grilled Focaccia, Tagaytay Tomato Salad, Classic Eggs a la Russe with Smoked Salmon, Grilled Chicken Fillets with Spanish Chorizo and Tagaytay Pimientos, US Beef Short Rib Goulash with Roasted Onion and Paprika Sauce, Whole Roasted Red Snapper with Spicy Sauce, Curried Eggplant Casserole and Herb-Roasted Leg of Lamb with choice of sauces.

At 11:30 a.m., there will be balloon twisting and storytelling sessions, magic show and Easter egg hunt for kids and adults. Call (6346) 4134567/ 6838383.

BLACKENED Salmon Glazed with Fruity Wine Potato Gratin

NICOTINA offers a hearty lunch and dinner buffet this Easter. Buffet is priced at P750 for adults and P450 for kids. Call 5517906 to 07.

AT DISCOVERY Suites' Café Berrio, partake of the Soul Food Menu until today.
Savor culinary creations at P450++ per person. These include Baked New Zealand Mussels with Garlic and Cheese, Cream of Watercress with Parmesan Cheese Croutons, Blackened Salmon Glazed with Fruity Wine Potato Gratin and Asparagus, Grilled Caesar Marinated Snapper On Saffron Tomato Risotto and Calamansi Torte on Cashew Crust. Call 6352222.

Spongebob pinch-hits for Easter Bunny

SPONGEBOB Squarepants joins Powerbooks and Simon and Schuster in the Easter egg hunt at 3 p.m. today at Powerbooks Greenbelt and Ayala Town Center Alabang.

Kids are invited to participate in fun-filled games and activities. A storytelling session starts the Easter celebration. Would-be artists can join arts and crafts lessons.

The event will be highlighted by a thrilling Easter egg hunt.

Participants who come dressed in their "underwater" best can win great prizes!

Kids will also be able to show off their creativity with an Easter Egg Designing contest! The announcement of the winner and awarding of prizes will cap the day's events.

Easter Egg Hunt with Spongebob Square Pants
march 27 2005
join the fun at powerbooks as we celebrate easter with games, storytelling and easter egg hunt! come in your best spongebob attire and win exciting prizes!
powerbooks alabang - 3:00 pm
powerbooks greenbelt - 3:00 pm
registration starts at 2:00 pm
Spongebob Square Pants Easter Egg Design Contest
POWER BOOKS

Magical Easter

CELEBRATE an egg-citing Easter Party at The Podium this Sunday.

HAVE a magical time on Easter Sunday at all SM supermalls.

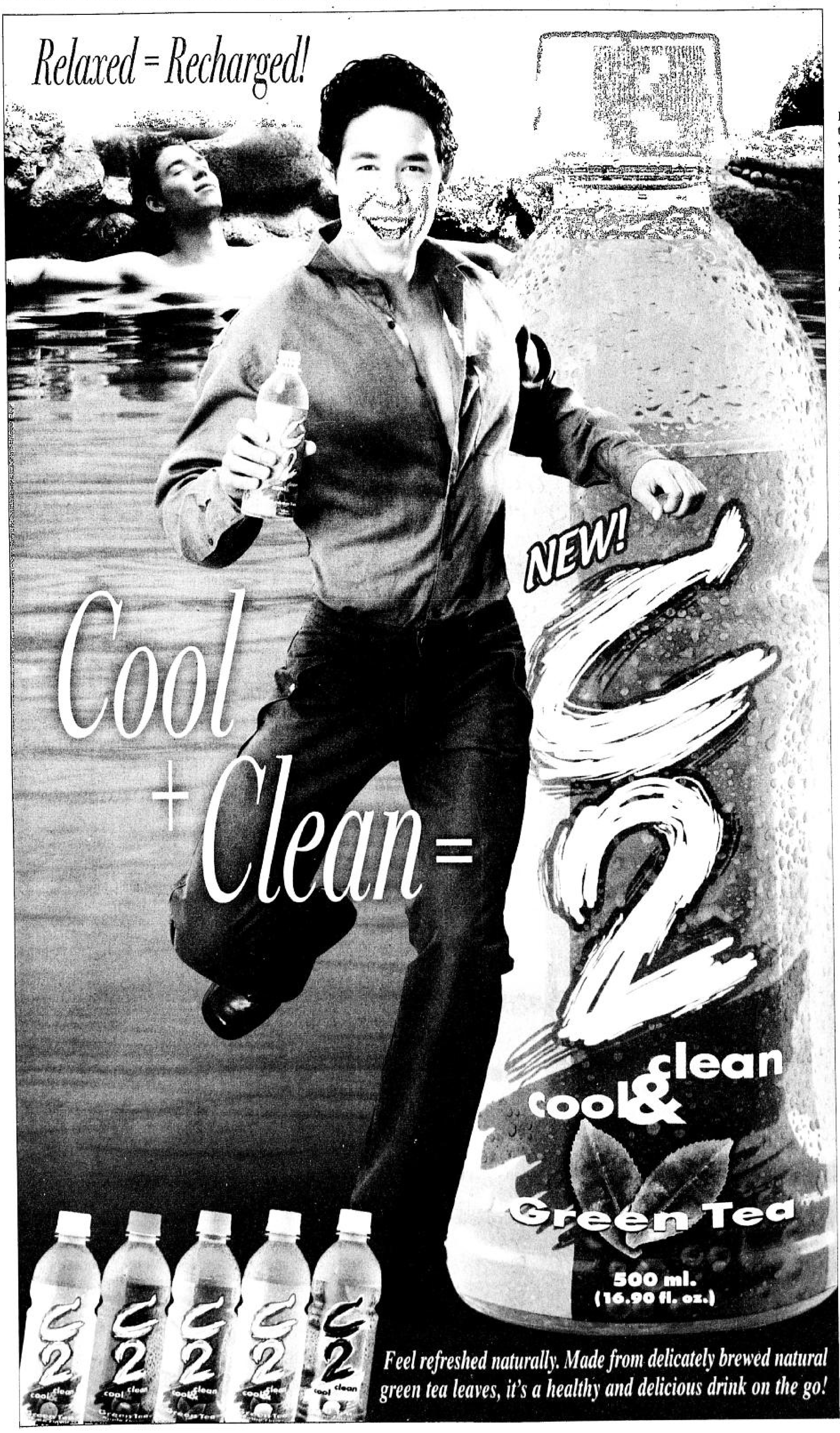
Magicians will delight kids today with their tricks and illusions. Egg painting sessions are scheduled at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Not to be missed is the Easter Egg Hunt. Each egg has an exciting prize that kids can claim from mall tenant donors. For a minimum single receipt purchase of P300, kids will have fun collecting 500 Easter eggs from the Inca pool in each mall.

Celebrate Easter at the SM Supermalls.

PAINT pretty Easter eggs at Color Me Mine's Egg Painting Activity at The Podium.

KIDS ARE in for loads of fun at the egg painting activity.



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C2 Green Tea: It's delicious, it's health-tea!

Everybody drinks iced tea these days. What they don't realize is that most of the time, what they are drinking is more sugar than tea!

The good news is there's a new kind of healthy iced tea available in the market. New C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea, made from delicately brewed natural tea leaves so you not only feel deliciously refreshed, you'll also get all the health benefits of green tea.

Stay fit to a Tea! Green tea's numerous health benefits:

It's an antioxidant! Studies have shown that green tea has many health-giving properties. It is a powerful antioxidant which means it can help protect the body from harmful micro-organisms. Because of this antioxidant property, it is also recognized as a helpful tool in preventing the development of cancer cells.

Helps burn fat! Green tea is also good for those people trying to lose or maintain their weight. Green tea has a thermogenic effect that produces heat in the body that results in fat burning. It also initiates faster metabolism causing the body to burn fat at a faster rate.

Controls cholesterol! Green tea thins the blood and decreases the possibility of cholesterol formation inside the blood vessels. Instead of absorbing the cholesterol, green tea prompts the body to increase the amount of fat excreted as waste. This reduces the risks on the heart and blood pressure.

Tea-licious!

Unlike some other things that are healthy, C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is actually really delicious. People who are used to softdrinks and sweet juices will surely enjoy its light and refreshing taste. It won't be hard to convert to a habit of drinking something healthier and better for you. Even picky children and teenagers may enjoy C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea's yummy taste.

Spa in a Sip

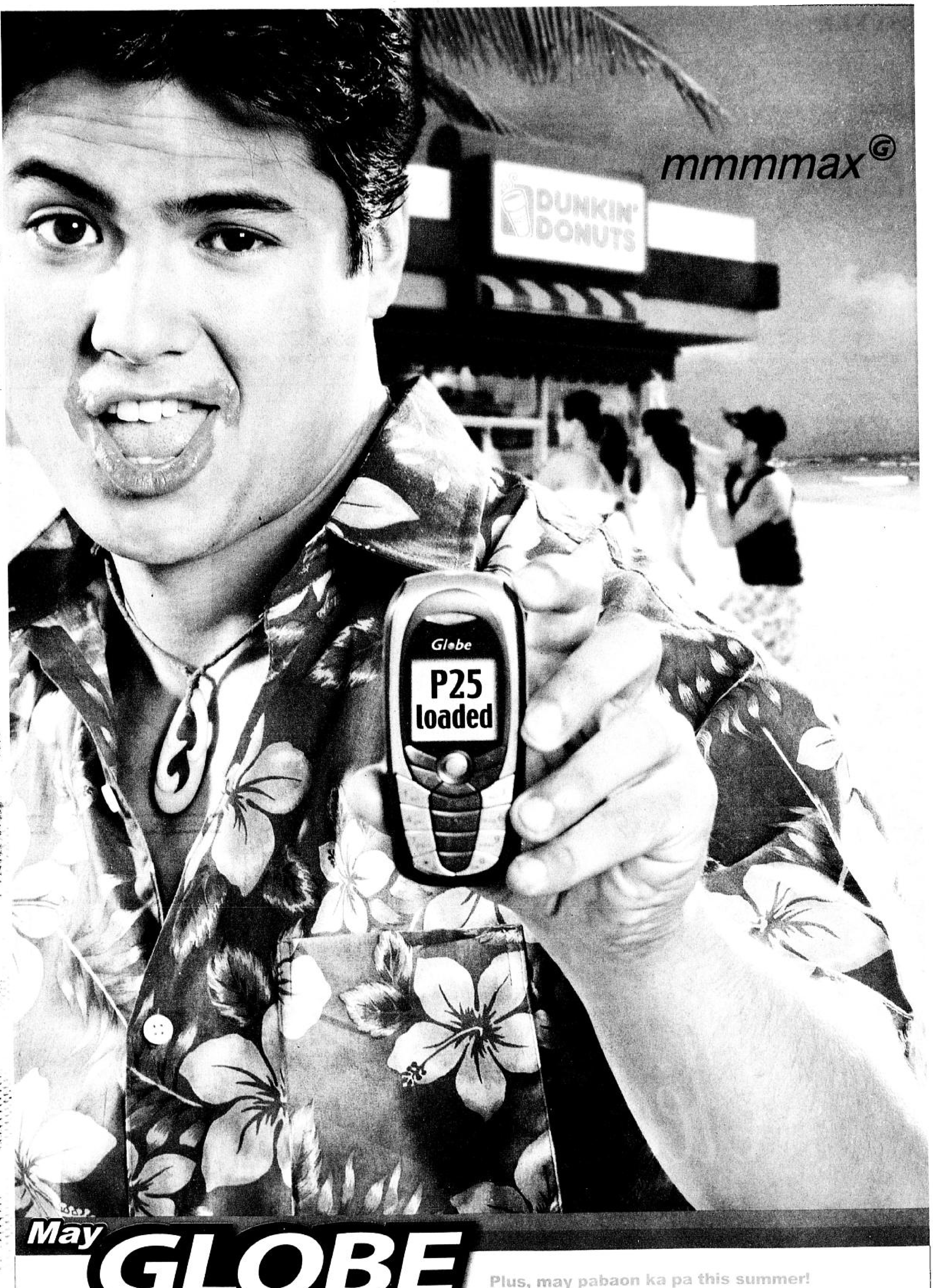
Much like going to the spa, C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is both relaxing and recharging. Its delicious taste, especially when served cold, is very refreshing while all the real tea benefits make you feel reinvigorated! So anytime you need to feel both refreshed and recharged, a sip of C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is all you need. It's like experiencing an inner spa.

Tea Take-out

All this goodness is now bottled and ready to be consumed anytime, anywhere. All at a very reasonable price!

C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is available in convenient and resealable plastic PET bottles. It comes in five delicious flavors: Green Tea Plain, Lemon, Apple, Peach and Iced Tea Lemon. The suggested retail price of the 350 ml bottle is only P10, while the bigger 500 ml is only P15.

It's now available at your favorite supermarkets and convenience stores. So grab a chilled bottle of C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea and enjoy a new kind of healthy refreshment.



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WHAT a difference a day in Mt. Makiling makes
/D2

Vintage hotel-ing

THE CALESA Bar launched the careers of several of the country's top singers.

An impeccable reputation for good service seems to keep the Hyatt Regency Manila in good stead in spite of many 'young' competitors

By Linda B. Bolido

AT THIRTYSOMETHING, she is as gracious and subtly elegant as ever. While others at that age are starting to fret over their looks, she has hardly felt any need for a major makeover. Her only concessions to the passage of time are a tweak in the accents here and a change in the accessories there—too discreet to be noticed, freshening up the ambience yet making her seemingly ageless.

No wonder, any return visit to the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City always gives one a feeling of comfortable familiarity. It may not be quite home but, for a guest, probably close enough.

From the minimalist lobby without the hustle and bustle of other hotels that gives one the feeling of being in a train station, even if posh, to the courteous and helpful front desk crew, the Hyatt immediately strikes one as all business efficiency but in a friendly and distinctively hospitable Filipino way.

In fact, Hyatt's top people feel service is what sets them apart from the pack. While others have reinvented themselves twice or thrice to impress with their looks, the hotel has simply continued doing what it does best—giving premium service to every guest, old or new.

No bling-blings

That is not to say that the deluxe "boutique business hotel" has completely disregarded physical appearance. But, instead of draping itself in what would be the décor equivalent of bling-blings, the Hyatt seems to have preferred to focus its attention on keeping everything spic and span—clean, neat and in good working order. From the upholstery to the bathroom fixtures, everything is well maintained, a great deal of the credit going no doubt to Fernando A. Santiago, housekeeping manager.

Now owned by the Chan family's Binalbagan Sugar Co. and under the helm of singer Jose Mari Chan, the storied Hyatt seeks to carry on a tradition that has seen it host such luminaries as former United States President Gerald Ford and State Secretary Henry Kissinger, heiresses Gloria Vanderbilt and Christina Ford, fashion icon Diane von Furstenberg, prima ballerina Dame Margot Fonteyn and Hollywood personalities Tom Selleck, Burt Reynolds, rocker Tina Turner and ex-husband Ike.

The Hyatt may seem laid-back, even staid, in comparison with some upstarts in the hotel business but there does not seem to be a shortage of people who prefer to be in quiet and comfortable surroundings rather than in busy "showrooms." Both manager Farid A. Shoucair, a *balik*-Hyatt Manila, and director for marketing Ma. Christi dela Torre are gratified that even in the worst of times, the hotel has done fairly well in terms of occupancy rate.

Loyal patrons and employees

The guest profile has changed, of course, with the hotel getting many Korean guests these days but return business has also been fairly good.

Lyn H. Balba, assistant manager of the Regency Club, a special service for executive travelers; and Gerard I. Gaspar and John Benedict V. Dada, both assistant front office managers, report that many guests of the Asian Development Bank, who have stayed at the hotel when the financial institution was practically next door, would rather commute to ADB's new Ortigas Center offices from the Hyatt rather than stay somewhere closer.

Perhaps it is also an important measure of the way things are with Hyatt that its people seem to like working there and prefer to stay. The hotel's musical director, Rudy Francisco, has been with Hyatt for as long as it has existed while a young Tempura Misono chef is now on his 10th year there and has no plans of going elsewhere, to give just two examples.

While the hotel has closed down some original outlets, Tempura Misono is still one of the most popular Japanese restaurants, a sentimental favorite of many diners who love to reminisce about happy times with the late Albert Seeland who commanded that particular "ship." Its Café Al Fresco, under the supervision of manager Christian A. Purisima, is one

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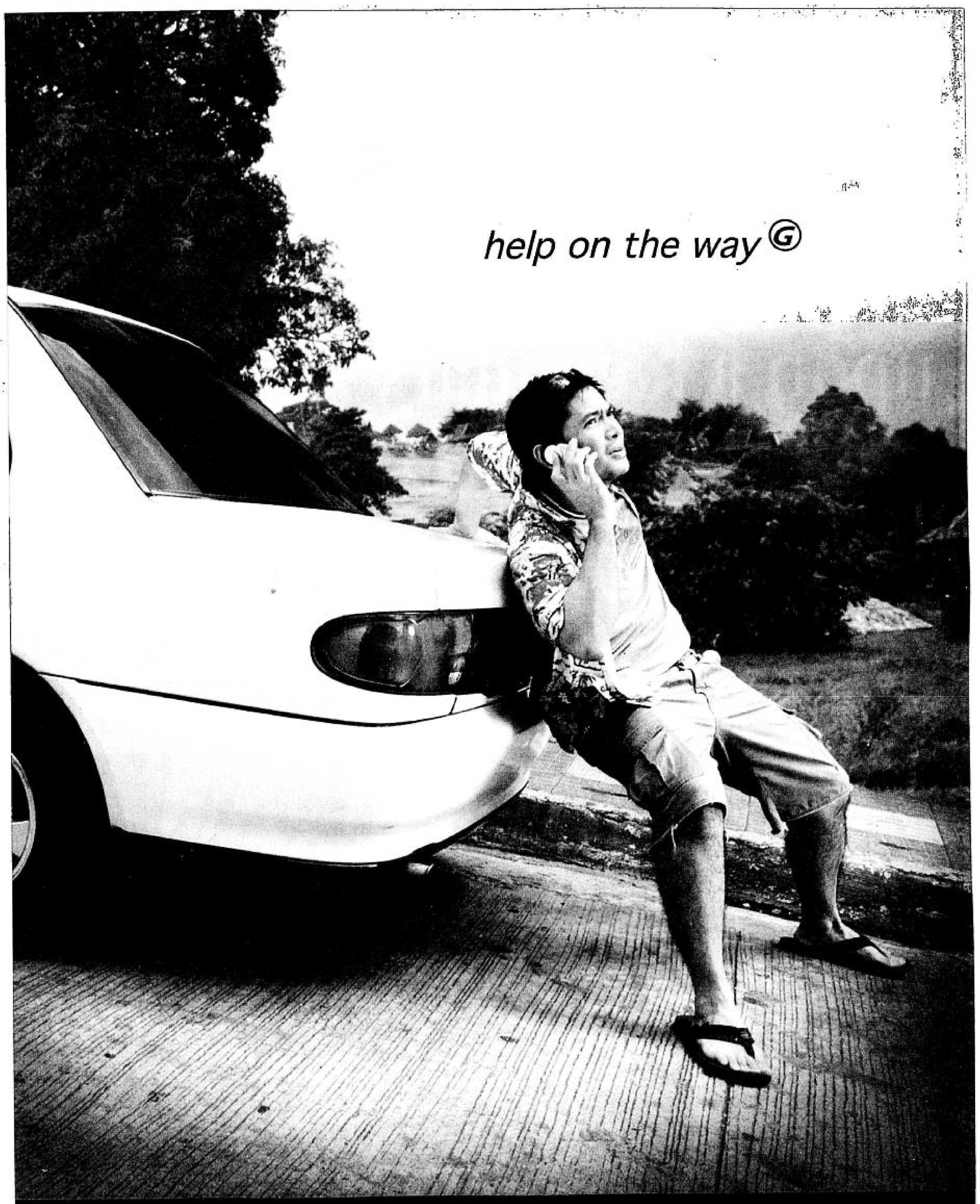

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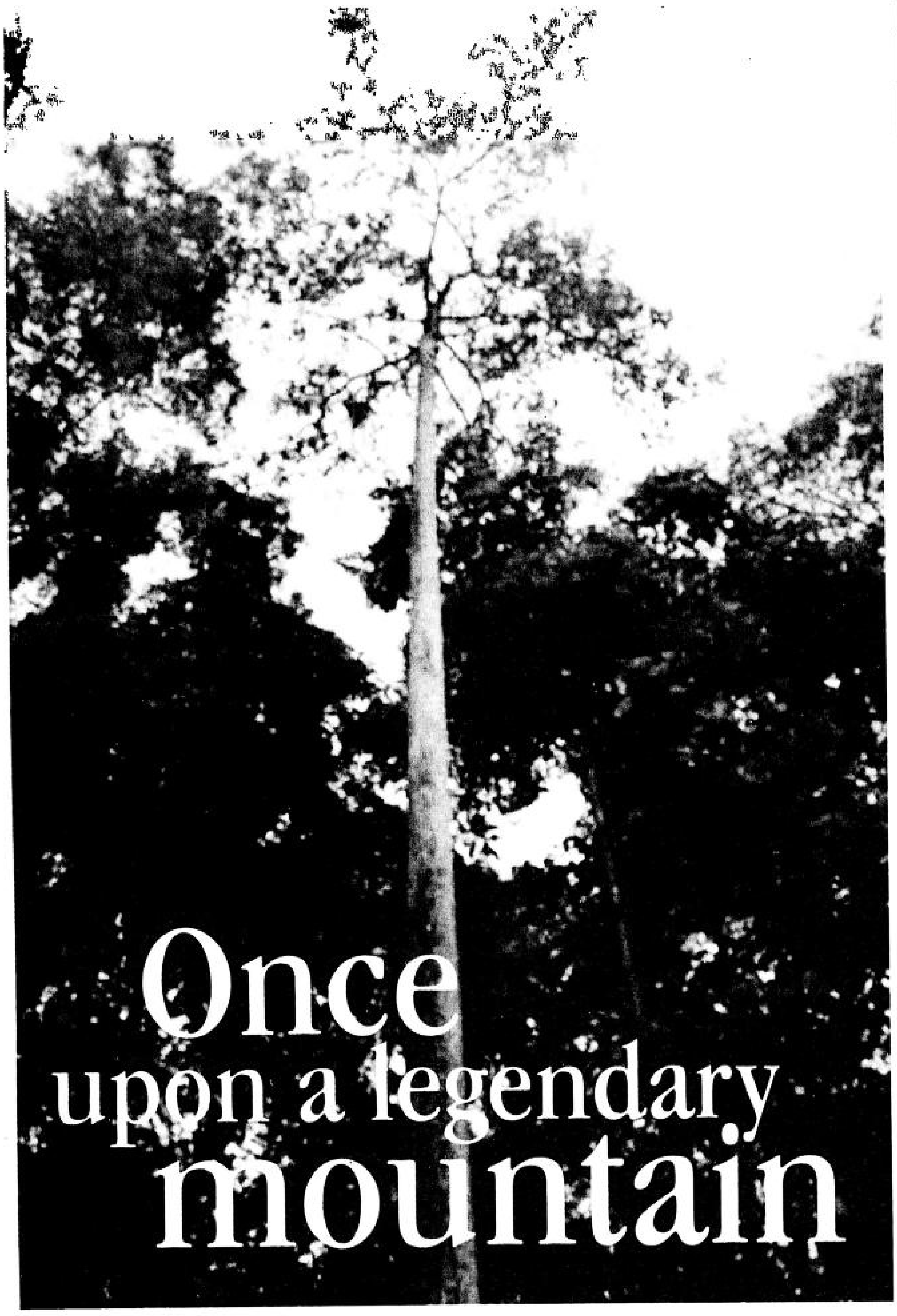

Once upon a legendary mountain

By Gina Go
Contributor

Employees of FirstGen experience Mt. Makiling firsthand and come away with a heightened awareness of the need for environmental advocacy

HIGHLIGHT. A visit to the Center for Philippine Raptors, caring home for the endangered Philippine Eagle and other birds of prey

A STREAM runs through it, as do creeks, hot springs and water intakes.

THE forest reserve is a training laboratory for natural resource conservation and protection of watershed areas.

MOST of us have probably heard of the place and even the legend associated with it, but maybe not many of us urbanites have dared to venture there.

Mt. Makiling is a destination area in Laguna known for its hot springs, *buko* pie and *lanzones*. But, surprisingly, there is so much more to Mt. Makiling than just resorts.

Makiling is one of the country's treasured biodiverse areas and forested watersheds. The entire Mt. Makiling Forest Reserve (MFR) measures about 1,090 meters in altitude and has close to 6 hectares in forest reserve and buffer zone. It is so big it spans two provinces, one city, three municipalities and 21 barangays. More importantly, it supplies the water requirements of residents in the area. It is a rich water source consisting of 78 streams, creeks and springs, 42 hot springs and eight water intakes and underground water table for deep wells. And while it is really a volcano, it has not erupted since the 16th century.

Biodiversity

The mountain development program for Mt. Makiling is focused on biodiversity conservation, watershed management and community development. These objectives may sound complicated but what it really aspires for is simply to ensure for this and future generations a sustainable and harmonious ecosystem in the area.

Aside from being a mountain community in itself, the forest reserve has been used as a training laboratory for the advancement of scientific and technical knowledge in natural resource conservation and protection of watershed areas. This has been so since the transfer of its administration and complete control to the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB) in 1989. Its limited access to government funds has propelled MFR to tap the assistance of other stakeholders like the local government units, the private sector, the NGOs and various civic organizations in enforcing regulations, creating awareness of and funding for the various rehabilitation and conservation programs of Mt. Makiling.

The most popular destinations in Mt. Makiling are the Makiling Botanic Gardens (MBG) and Central Mt. Makiling where an average of about 100,000 and 23,000 visitors, respectively, flock annually. MBG, located at the northeastern slope of Mt. Makiling, is a protected sanctuary for flora and fauna. It is accessible via UPLB. Central Mt. Makiling, on the other hand, is more popular among the hard-core mountaineers.

True philanthropy

I had a firsthand experience of seeing MBG myself when First Gen Corp. organized an employees' picnic there. FirstGen has committed to assist in the funding of the construction of Makiling Center, which will serve as the visitors' area where symposia, film showings and tour orientations can be held.

Welcome
Makiling Picnic '04
October 23, 2004
Makiling Botanic Gardens
UP Los Baños, Laguna
FirstGen

FIRSTGEN employees on a picnic (above and below) see for themselves how much has been accomplished and how much more needs to be done at Mt. Makiling Botanic Garden where the company is helping with the construction of a visitors' center.

Believing that true corporate philanthropy means involving everyone within the organization, including employees, through awareness and volunteerism and merely dispensing financial assistance, FirstGen transported about 100 of us employees to Mt. Makiling one Saturday to get a firsthand experience in communing with nature. The activities lined up were, as expected, clustered around exploring and sightseeing like trail hikes, bird watching and trees/plants appreciation.

We also fit into the schedule a *pandan* tree planting in honor of the hometown of our vice chair Peter Garrucho Jr., a strong supporter of Makiling even in his days as Tourism Secretary. But the highlight of the trip was the visit to the Center for the Philippine Raptors where they care for the endangered Philippine Eagle and other birds of prey. Lunch was organized at the picnic area near the swimming pool. The shade of the trees kept us cool even during midday.

Awareness

About a month after the picnic, the flooding in Quezon Province happened, recalling to mind the Ormoc flooding of years ago that should have already served as a painful forewarning to the country. A lot of people were angered by the Ormoc incident and clamored for environmental reforms. There were discussions to restrict logging, a scenario that was recently repeated after the Quezon tragedy. But, as we all know, talk is cheap.

We wonder... Could exposure to Makiling do a better job of instilling awareness, vigilance and involvement in our people? From what we in FirstGen experienced, the answer is yes. We may not have undergone a dramatic 180-degree transformation. And we may still like the convenience of living in the metropolis near our place of work, our children's schools and the tempting shopping malls. But we know that we have not been the same since the Makiling hike.

Whether you are a naturalist, an adventurer or an ordinary city dweller, you might want to mark your calendar for a day trip to Makiling. And while you're there, may the beauty of nature tug at your heart to give a little, act a little, and maybe spend a little for environment protection. Remember: Every little bit helps.

For donations, contact The Director, Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of the Philippines-Los Baños, Laguna, 4031. Tel +6349-5362637. E-mail makiling@laguna.net.

HOTEL rooms and suites are kept tidy and well-maintained, hardly showing the passage of time.

Vintage hotel-ing

From page D1

of the more authentic Italian restaurants hereabouts. And, of course, the Calesa Music Bar and Lounge has been the launching pad of several big names in the music industry.

'Giant' for a neighbor

And though the Hyatt may currently be far from the major shopping destinations, it won't be long before it will be almost within spitting distance of what is expected to be the biggest mall in Southeast Asia, SM's Mall of Asia at the Reclamation Area scheduled to open later this year. Shoucair says they may arrange for shuttle service to and from the mall for hotel guests.

Of course, one of the best things about having the Hyatt Regency as one's "address" is the front-row seat a guest gets to what is probably the only natural wonder Metro Manila has to offer—the awe-inspiring Manila Bay sunset. It has to be seen even just once to understand why people often cannot quite find the words to describe it.

Fortunately, this magnificent view from the Hyatt and all other things the hotel has to offer is available not just to foreigners but also for local residents who may feel an occasional need to get-away from the familiar or stress-causing environment. Current rates for local residents are:

De Luxe Room on Single or Twin Occupancy, P3,500 net (Rate inclusions: buffet breakfast at Café al Fresco, free use of the swimming pool, access to the fitness suite); Regency Club Room on Single or Twin Occupancy, P4,500 net (Rate inclusions: access to the Regency Club Lounge, breakfast in the lounge, evening cocktails, all-day coffee and tea service).

The Hyatt Regency Manila is at 2702 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Call 8331234 or fax 8335913. E-mail Manila.Business_Centre@hyattintl.com or visit www.hyatt.com

MINIMALIST lobby does not have the hustle and bustle of other hotels that give one the feeling of being in a train station.

THE DELICATESSEN is a reason Café Al Fresco is one of the more popular Italian places in town.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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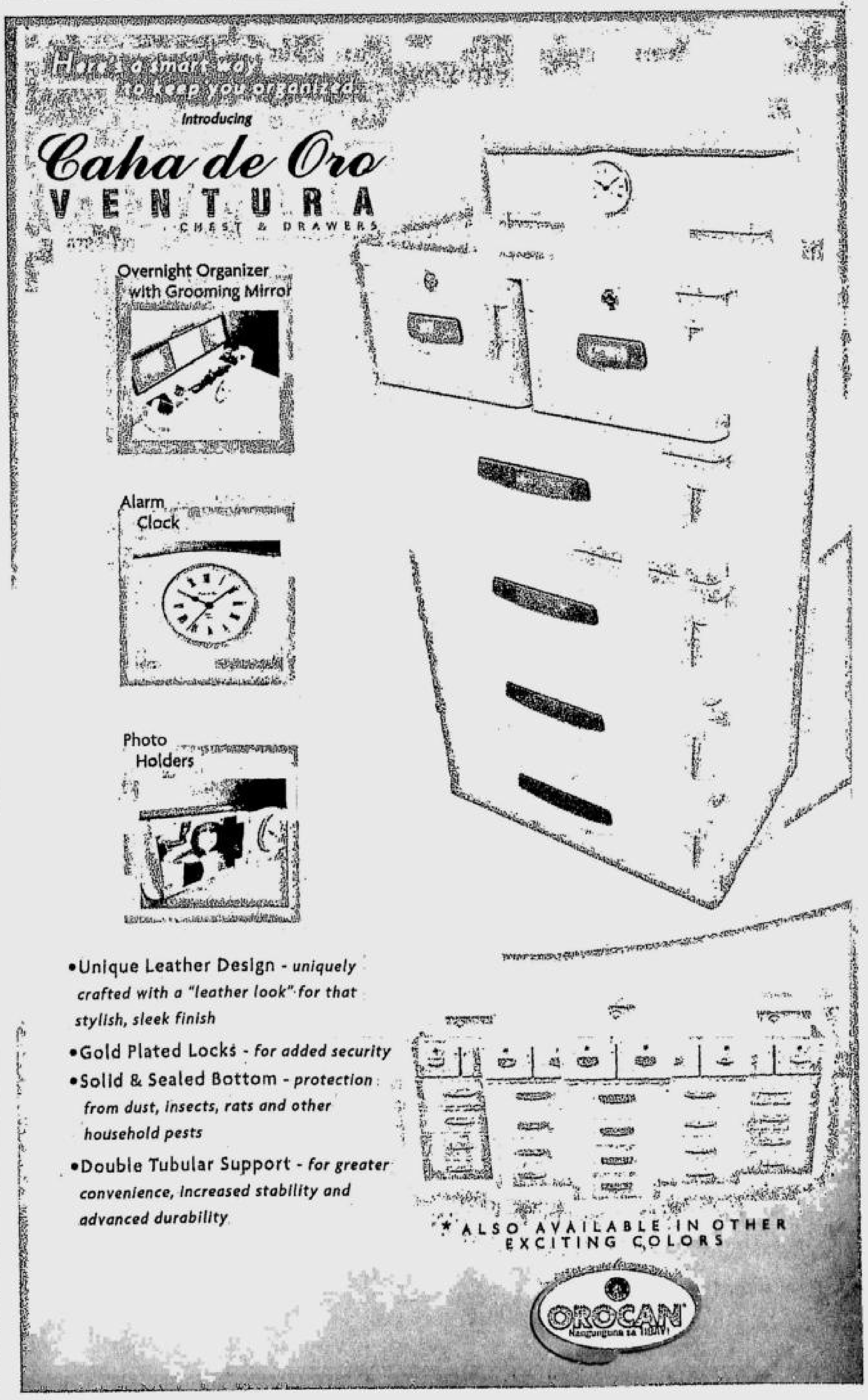

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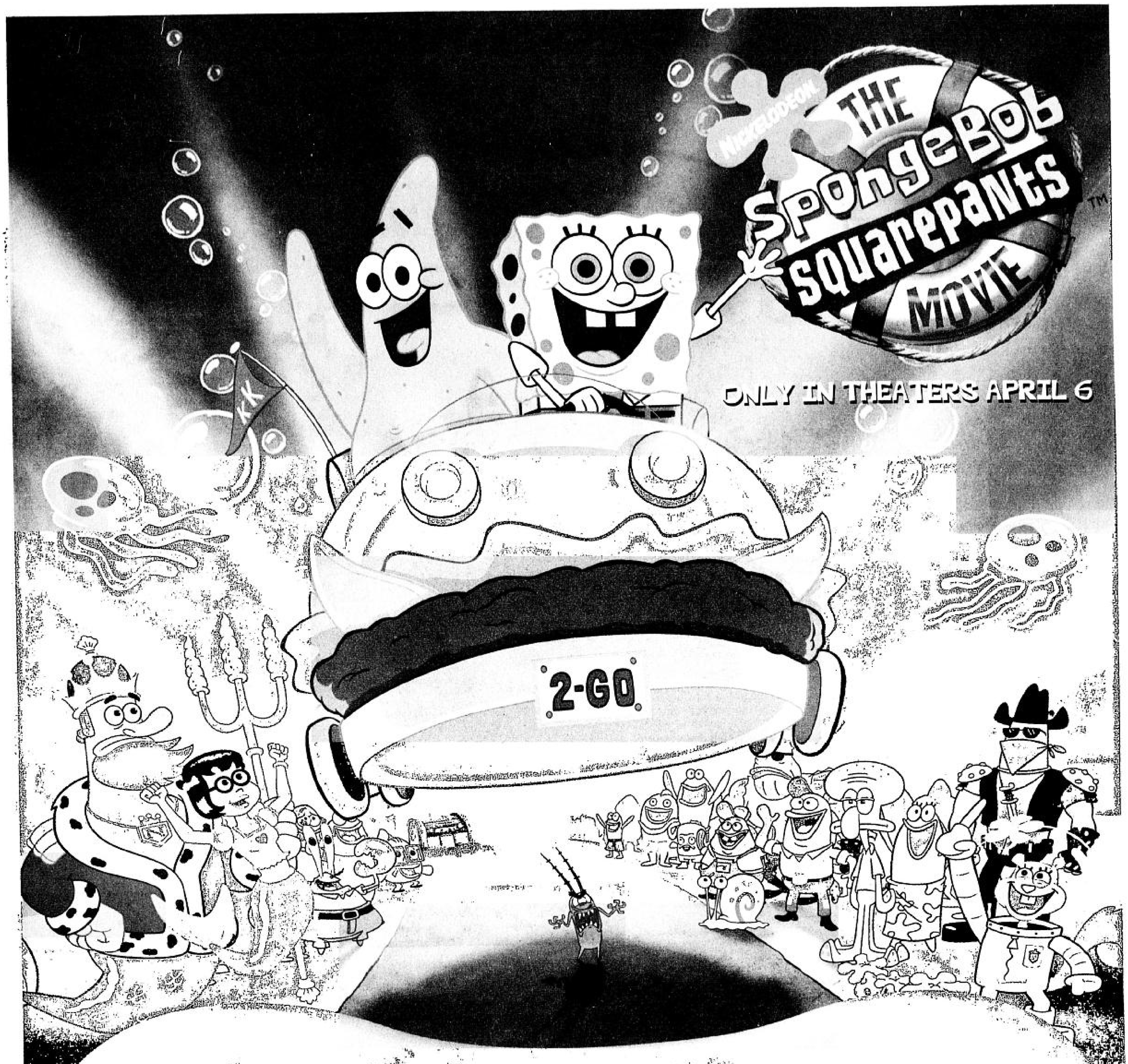

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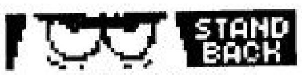
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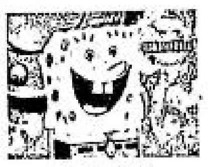
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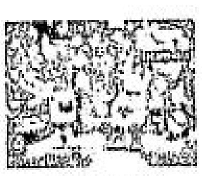
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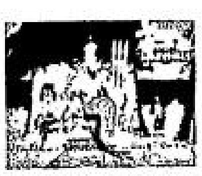
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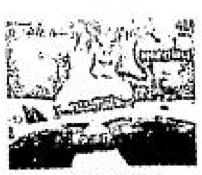
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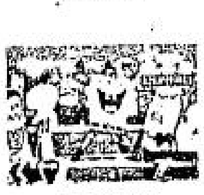
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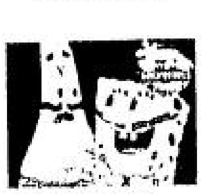
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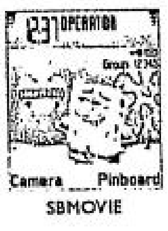
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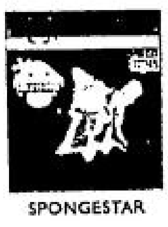
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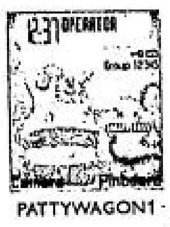
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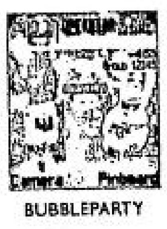
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MUSIC		MOVIE LINES	
SpongeBob SquarePants Theme	102323	"Hurray for SpongeBob"	102334
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SpongeBob and Patrick	102321	"Ohh It's Evil"	102339

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SB Theme 2	SBTHEME2
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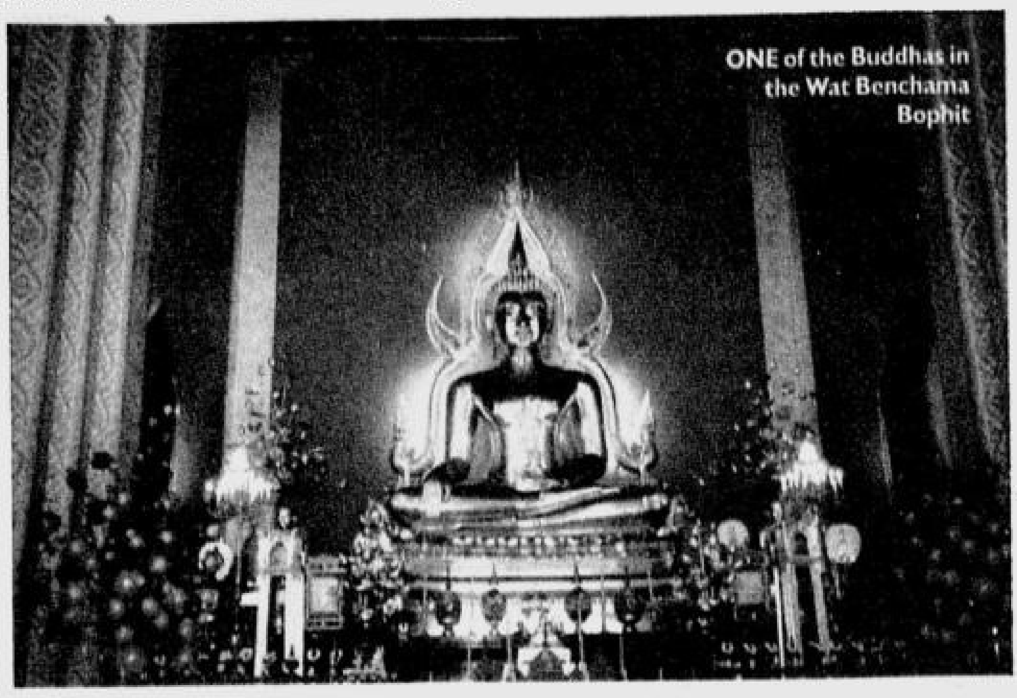
ONE of the Buddhas in the Wat Benchama Bophit

Environmental storm off Bangkok

By Antonio M. Claparols
Contributor

THIS STORY began on Nov. 14 last year, when a storm was blowing as we left Manila en route to Bangkok, Thailand, to attend the 3rd World Conservation Congress.

Thailand was an appropriate host for the 10-day congress. From the northern region of Chiang Rai where the Mekong giant catfish is in danger of extinction to the southern part of Trang where the coastal resources are under severe stress, the country boasts a rich biodiversity, forested mountains, a varied geology, wet and dry climates and a complex coastline marked by clear waters around coral reefs and turbid waters lapping at mud flats.

As many as 118 motions were presented on the state of the planet, including the over 15,000 species facing extinction as well as the effects of climate change and global warming.

With over a billion people in the world living below the poverty line—a state of affairs compounded by the rapid degradation of the Earth's resources—it has become apparent to all that the environment must be protected and conserved to eradicate poverty and to implement the UN Millennium Development goals.

After intense debates, the first resolution adopted was a moratorium on the release of genetically modified resources. It was a historical landmark, with the IUCN (the World Conservation Union) adopting it, as did 63 percent of the countries (including Thailand) and 89 percent of the nongovernment organizations present.

The adoption of the resolution merited an ovation that made the congress hall shake.

It was also a personal milestone for me as regional councilor of the IUCN, which I

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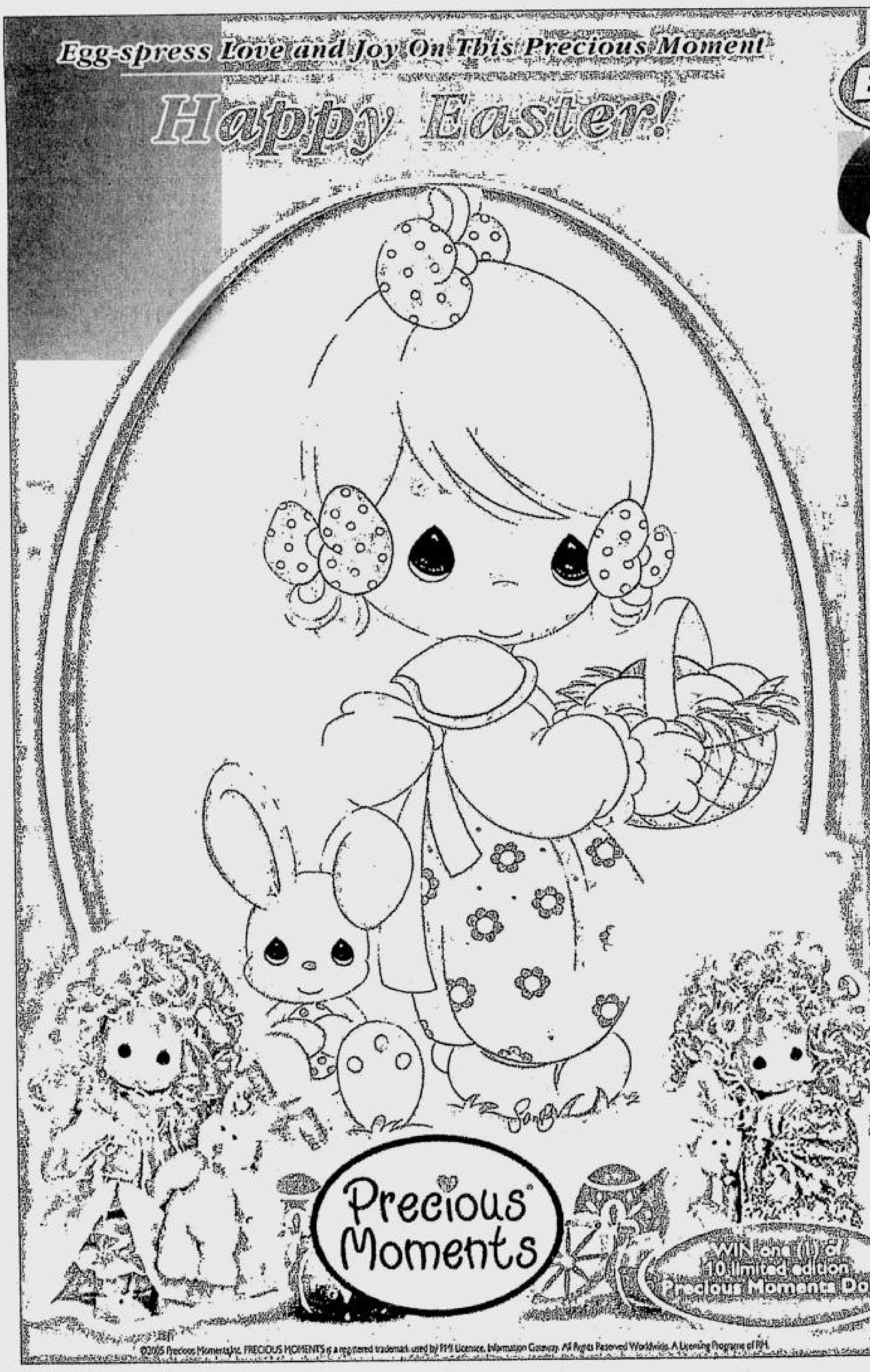
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Have compassion, will travel

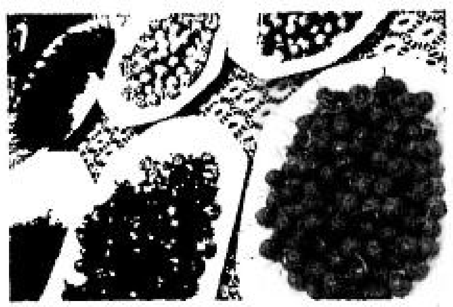
Text and photos by Pam Pastor

DINNER for close to 1,000 participants of the Recovery Andaman Mega Fam Tour at Phuket FantaSea's The Golden Kinnaree

PHOTOS TAKEN WITH A CANON IXUS 500

LIKE SEPT. 11, Dec. 26 is a date that will remain imprinted on millions of people's minds. On that dreadful day, killer tsunamis swept across the South Asian region, hitting Indonesia, India, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand hard and leaving hundreds of thousands dead, injured and homeless.

Since then, the affected countries have been trying to go back to normalcy, to return to life the way it used to be, with the help of various organizations and volunteers.



BRIGHT AND COLORFUL. Sweets sold at the Loving Andaman Beach Festival foretell Andaman's future.

Up to this day, three months after that tragic event, people around the world continue to ask the same question. How can we help?

Travel.

That's the answer of the Tourism Authority of Thailand and Thai Airways. Southern Thailand's Andaman Area, which includes Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga, Trang, Satun and Ranong, was a popular vacation destination. However, after the tsunami and the excessive media coverage of the disaster, tourism in Thailand took a major hit.

Cancelled trips

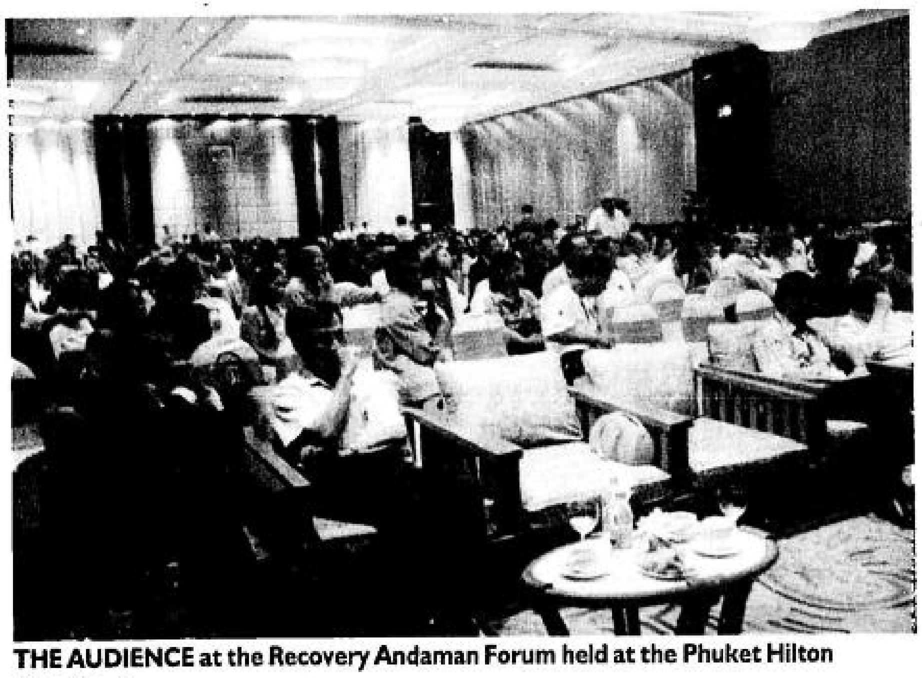
Australia, Germany, USA, Italy, Russia and Sweden issued travel advisories against going to the affected areas, including Phuket. Chartered flights from Scandinavia, China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Russia, France and Italy that should have brought in 30,000 visitors were cancelled. Both foreign and domestic travelers have cancelled travel bookings to Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi until March. Over 80 percent of rooms that were still operational received cancellations. The occupancy rate is now around 10-20 percent, when it should have been 80-90 percent, especially in the beach-front hotels.

Realizing this, the Tourism Authority of Thailand and Thai Airways decided to bring in close to 1,000 journalists and travel agents from all parts of the world for a familiarization trip of Southern Thailand to show their recovery efforts and to let the world know that Thailand still has so much to offer tourists, even post-tsunami.

At the Recovery Andaman forum, TAT governor Juthamas Siriwan and Thai Airways president Kanok Abhiradee gave heartfelt talks about restoration efforts after the tsunami.

Restoration

They have taken many steps toward restoration. The beaches and the sea have undergone cleanup operations to clear the debris. Coral reefs have been replanted and mangrove forests are being rehabilitated. Banks have been assisting large and small businesses that were affected.



THE AUDIENCE at the Recovery Andaman Forum held at the Phuket Hilton Arcadia

And their plans are seemingly limitless. They are currently working on the establishment of an early-warning system. They are also putting up tsunami memorial spots and a tsunami memorial museum. They are improving water and waste management systems and are determined to maintain the quality of tourist destinations. Lifeguard posts will be put up on all beaches. They intend to turn the Krabi airport into an international airport and expand the Phuket International Airport so they can accommodate up to 10 million passengers. Commuter flights will be promoted for easier transfer of tourists from one island to another.

STILL the land of smiles

Better than before

The Thais do not intend to just go back to normal, they said; they want things better than before. Since the tsunami, they said that "water quality has improved tremendously, going back to what it was like 20 years ago."

There is something to be said about this country's positive attitude and its determination to rise above last year's tragedy. It is safe to say that the media delegation was moved. A man from India stood up during the forum and expressed his admiration for what the Thais had done, and asked the media to applaud them.

The speakers highlighted the six provinces—Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga, Trang, Satun and Ranong—as ideal travel destinations in Thailand and expressed their desire to let people know that Phuket's different beaches can cater to their different vacation needs. Patong is the place to go for recreational and entertaining activities. Kamala is culture-oriented. Phi Phi is a paradise for relaxing, diving and adventure. Khao Lak will be built up as an exclusive beach resort for couples and families.

Attractive packages

To entice tourists, Thai tourism players have created attractive packages, reducing accommodation costs, airfares and even entrance fees to different tourist attractions.

While a lot are praising Thailand's fast recovery, there are already comments from people criticizing Thailand for being too quick to forget. But the speakers had the answer.

"Pain remains in our hearts. Grief remains in our spirits. But we have a choice. Let pain and grief remain or let life go on. Today I pledge that life has to go on."

And life has gone on in Thailand. Tourists are back—maybe not as many as before—but they are there. Happy couples can be seen enjoying breakfast al fresco on the beach, students from Sweden have turned resorts into their playground.

"Disaster brings out the goodness in people," the speakers said, stressing the importance of people helping people. "To put it in simpler terms, we need your help. Bring with you warmth and care."

So how do you help Thailand's Andaman area? Call your travel agent and pack your bags.

E-mail ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

Your i-Thai-nerary

Things to do, sights to see and places to call home in the southern area of the Land of Smiles

SOUTHERN Thailand is the ideal place for relaxation and unforgettable adventures.

What to do:

Release your inner child at Phuket FantaSea. Leave age at its colorful entrance and allow yourself to be swept into the world of Phuket FantaSea, which was given the honor of Best Attraction by the Thailand Tourism Awards from 2000 to 2003. This cultural theme park cost 3,500 million baht to build. Play games at the different booths and be surprised that the girls manning them are actually rooting for you to win adorable stuffed animals; enjoy dinner at The Golden Kinnaree Buffet Restaurant; and watch the state-of-the-art show at The Palace of Elephants, which features neon acrobats, exciting battle scenes and a lot of elephants.

Phuket FantaSea is at 99M3 Kamala Beach, Kathu, Phuket 83150 Thailand. Call 66-76385111 Visit www.phuket-fantasea.com or e-mail info@phuket-fantasea.com.

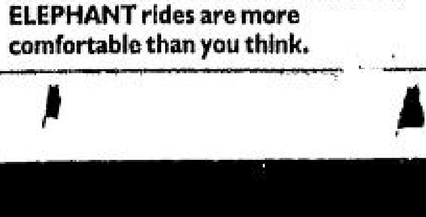
Go on a four-hour safari. Ride elephants, feed them, watch them paint, play the harmonica, dance and play with balls, see how monkeys are trained to pick coconuts, pose for pictures with water buffaloes, see how rubber trees are cut to produce natural rubber latex, take lessons on making jungle curry and take an enjoyable canoe ride. This is just one of the adventures that the award-winning Siam Safari Nature Tours has to offer. One, two and three-day tours are also available for those who think four hours isn't enough.

The office of Siam Safari Nature tours is located at 45 Chao Far Road Chalong Phuket 83130. Call 66-76280116. Visit www.siamsafari.com or e-mail info@siamsafari.com.

Feel like James Bond. Or maybe not. But you can visit James Bond Island, originally called Koh Ping-gan. Attribute the name change to Hollywood. This island became popular because it was featured in the James Bond movie "The Man With the Golden Gun." It was again given spotlight when Pierce Brosnan filmed an action scene there for "Tomorrow Never Dies." The long-tailed boat ride is comfortable and quick. Take a lot of photos and if you decide to shop, haggle your heart out. The prices there are jacked up to the heavens.

Visit www.phuket.com/island/phangnga.htm.

BRING on the buffet!



ELEPHANT rides are more comfortable than you think.

THE BEACH at Kata Beach Resort

Have lunch at a fishermen's village. When you've taken enough photos of James Bond Island, take your long-tailed boat to Koh Panyi, the Sea Gypsy Village which is a favorite lunch-stop of tourists. You can shop there after lunch—and again, haggle, haggle, haggle.

Visit www.phuket.com/island/phangnga.htm

CURRY FIX. The finished product

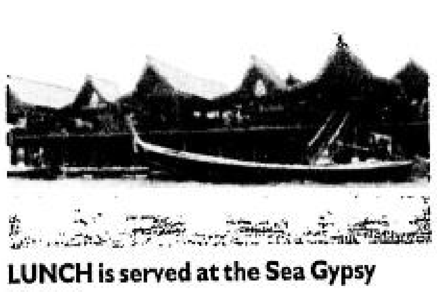
Visit as many beaches as you can. Kata, Patong, Karon, Nai Han, Rawai - enjoy the ultimate beach trip in Phuket. Engage in watersports, play beach volleyball, go snorkeling or scuba-diving or just try to get an even tan. When you've had enough of one paradise, hop into a *tuktuk* and ask the driver to take you to the next one and the next one and the next one.

Validate your Thailand trip. They say you haven't been to Thailand if you've never eaten authentic tom yam kung (hot-and-sour shrimp soup). So go out, find a nice restaurant and enjoy a bowl. While you're at it, indulge in hot curry with a serving of steaming white rice.

Where to stay:

In Krabi:

Aonang Villa Resort. This 157-room beachfront resort is set against the glorious background of limestone cliffs. The expansive beach is enough to make any sand-loving person happy while the large pools also offer relief from the unrelenting sunlight. For an extra dose of relaxation, guests can head over to The Villa Spa. They can choose between the large open-air treatment area or a private suite with a private Jacuzzi and steam room and enjoy a thorough massage or any of the other various treatments.



LUNCH is served at the Sea Gypsy Village.

PHOTOS TAKEN BY PAM PASTOR WITH A CANON IXUS 500

WELCOME to childhood. The colorful scene at Phuket FantaSea

Aonang Villa Resort is at 113 Moo 2, Ao Nang Beach, Muang, Krabi 81000, Thailand. Call 66-75637270 to 4. Visit www.aonangvilla.com or e-mail info@aonangvilla.com.

In Phuket:

Kata Beach Resort. This resort boasts of 273 rooms and suites with deluxe amenities. Ideal for relaxation, every room is just a short stroll away from the beautiful beach or the surrounding shopping and dining areas.

Kata Beach Resort is at 1 Pakbang Rd, Tambon Karon, Muang District, Phuket, 83100 Thailand. Call 6676330530 to 4. Visit www.katagroup.com or e-mail ktbrsvn@katagroup.com.

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

17 - 25 NOVEMBER 2004, BANGKOK, THAILAND

THE FINANCE and Audit Committee of the World Conservation Union with outgoing president Yolanda Kakabadse and director general Achim Steimer

Environmental storm off Bangkok

From page E1

served for two terms (I was elected in Montréal, Canada, in 1996 and reelected in Amman, Jordan, in 2000). With the Bangkok conference marking the end of my term, I could not express the euphoria I felt at the passage of the resolution.

Among the other resolutions passed were those involving the importance of corporate responsibility in arresting environmental degradation, and the protection of the oceans and water systems.

Mining

All over the world, extractive industries continue to exploit the mineral resources of developing nations.

As reported in the Asian Wall Steet Journal, the Indonesian government has announced that Newmont Mining, the world's largest gold-mining company, has polluted the waters in Sulawesi.

It is now reportedly preparing for a potentially bruising legal battle with one of its largest foreign investors.

Here at home, we have not learned lessons from the past such as the destruction wrought by mining in Marinduque, in the Cordillera Mountains, in the Visayas and Mindanao.

We must learn from all these and tackle the issues of mines and the prior and informed consent of our indigenous peoples.

Water, the source of all life, is a dying resource. It must be protected and given more attention. Without water, Mother Earth will cease to exist.

The closing ceremony of the 3rd World Conservation Congress was bigger and brighter than any of the past congresses and general assemblies.

As the delegates headed home, the question in their minds was probably how the conference would help them and their countries address the alarming state of the Earth's health.

Even then, the effects of global warming and climate change were being shown in alarming ways.

Even then, the ecological time bomb was clicking faster and could just explode before we reached home.

One thing was clear: The many issues discussed and the many resolutions adopted in the congress should evolve from mere words into action on the ground.

Thailand, a land rich in history and biodiversity, showed all the delegates that like many other countries, she needed our help.

It was the words of Suwit Khunkitti, the Thai minister of natural resources, that touched me most. He said we should follow the example of the King and Queen in conserving nature; we must as a species stop the destruction of our environment.

Fittingly, on Nov. 26 the people of Thailand engaged in the Loi Krathong celebration.

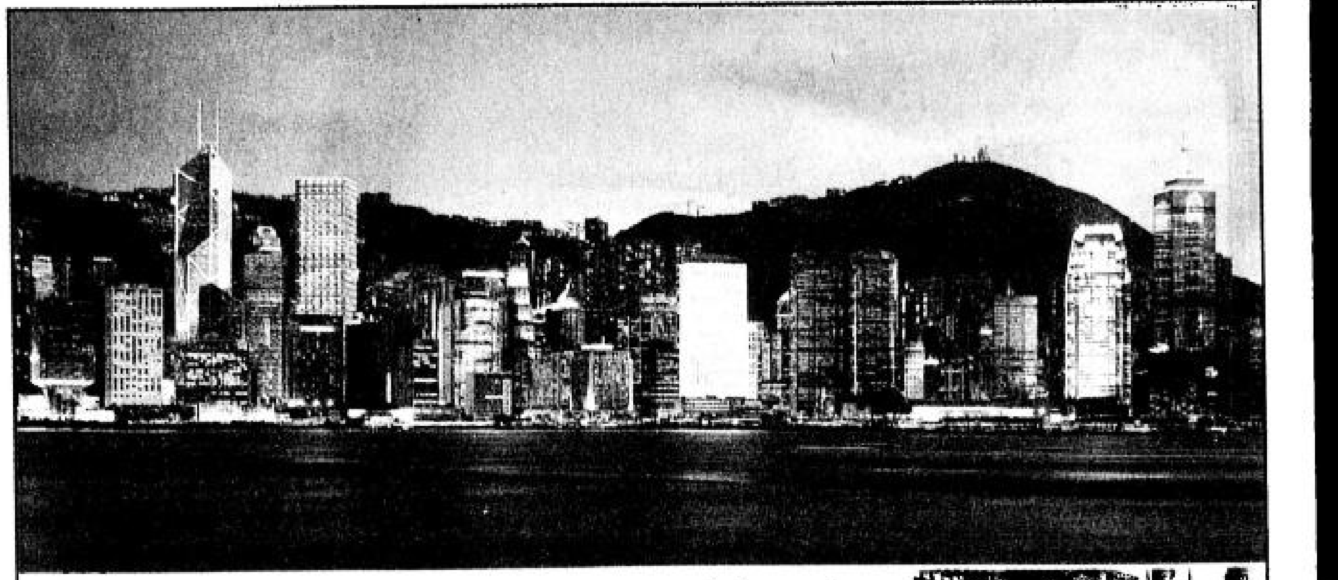
They lighted floats on the river to ask for forgiveness for polluting the water, and at the same time expressed their thanks for the water that had given them life.

It was a stirring message that we should all take to heart.

Let us give Mother Earth back what we have gotten from her, for the benefit of generations to come.

We don't have the luxury of time.

The author is the president of the Ecological Society of the Phils.



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There is no place like Hong Kong. Where else can you experience the distinctive blend of East and West, the rush as you indulge in shopping, or the unbelievable satisfaction from food? Explore the richness and diversity of Hong Kong's many interesting and amazing sights.

The first place on every visitor's "must do" list is Victoria Peak, where you can grasp the exhilarating sights of the Hong Kong skyline contrasted by peaceful green hillsides. A scenic trip on the Star Ferry or the historical Duk Ling Ride presents a memorable boat ride across one of the world's most photographed harbours.

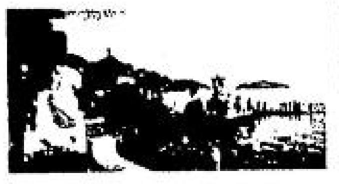
Immerse yourself in timeless heritage, culture and festivals. Visit the Man Mo Temple in Hollywood Road - Hong Kong's oldest Chinese Temple. Or seek enlightenment by visiting the Big Buddha, the world's tallest seated outdoor bronze Buddha located on Lantau Island.

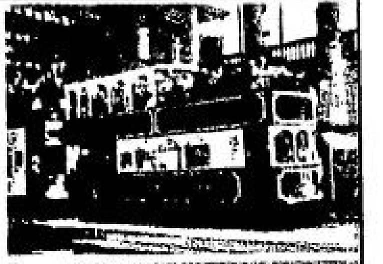
Experience the shopping universe at the many department stores in Hong Kong, where you will find outlets of famous international and local brands. Looking for a different and lively shopping experience? There is always the Temple Street Night Market and Ladies' Market at Mongkok to satisfy any bargain hunters' desire.

Discover some of Hong Kong's best-kept secrets. Join the Land Between Tour and witness Hong Kong's endangered pink dolphins in their scenic natural habitat in the waters off Lantau Island. Enjoy basking under the sun at any of Hong Kong's famous beaches - Stanley Beach, Repulse Bay, or Clearwater Bay Beach. Satisfy your gastronomic desires at any of Lamma Island's seafood restaurants.

In Hong Kong, the possibilities are endless, the memories are timeless and the experiences are unique. Visit Hong Kong now and you'll definitely Live It and Love It!

For more information on Hong Kong please visit www.DiscoverHongKong.com





Transportation Adventure

Traveling around Hong Kong has never been so fun and easy with its various means of transportation.

Duk Ling Junk. Climb aboard an authentic Chinese sailing junk that was originally owned and sailed by fishermen.

Star Ferry. A must for every visitor. The Star Ferry offers spectacular views of Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong Island and the Kowloon Peninsula.

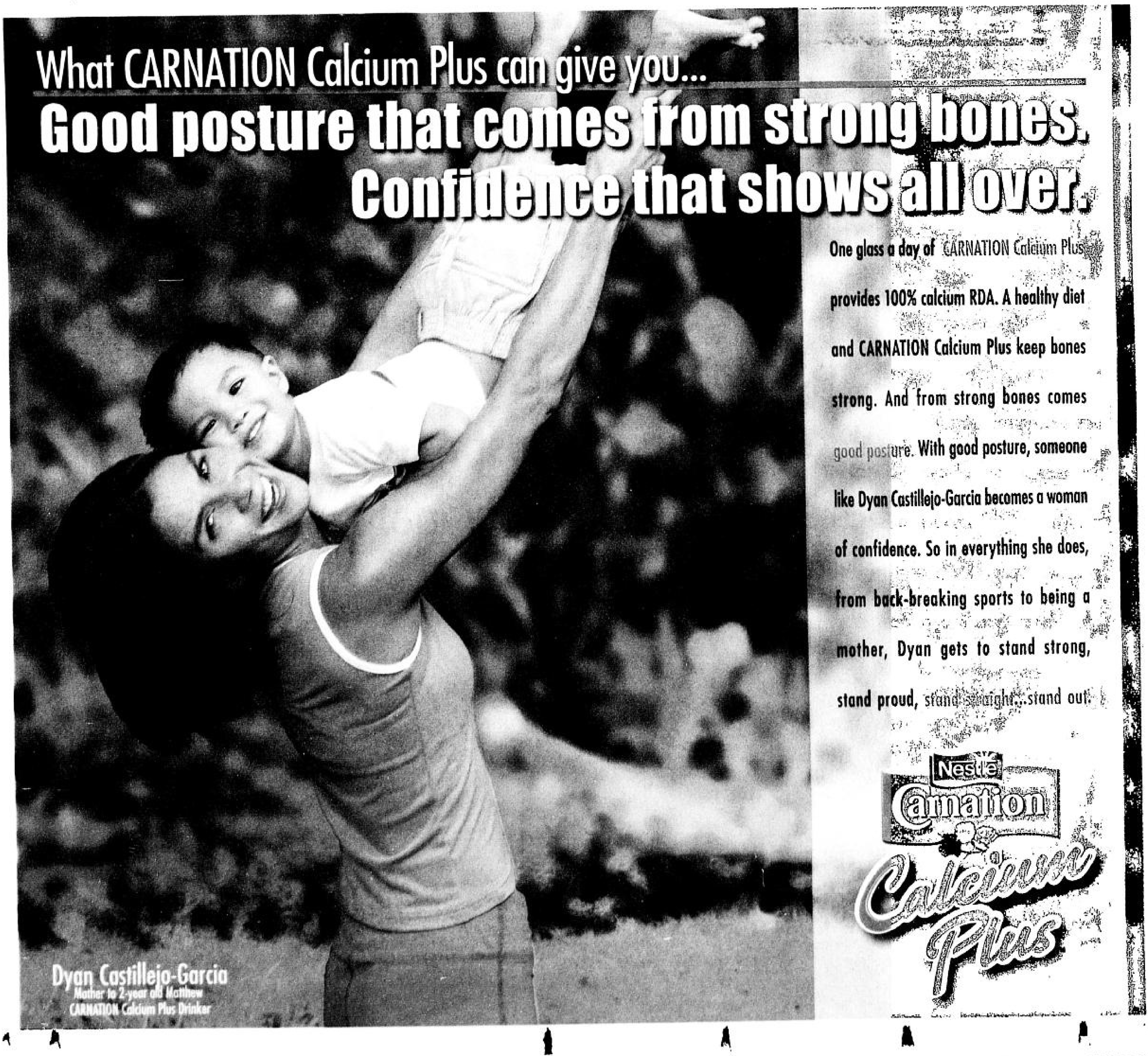
Trams. One of the classic icons of Hong Kong are the old street trams which provide an old-fashioned travel experience. It is also the only double-decker tram fleet operating in the world.

Mass Transit Railway (MTR). One of the easiest and fastest ways to go around Hong Kong is via the MTR. It connects the urban areas in Kowloon, most of Hong Kong Island and Lantau Island.

Open-Top Buses. A great way to see Central Districts' finest architecture is aboard the double-decker open-top buses running between the Star Ferry Piers in Central to the Peak Tram Lower Terminus.

Helicopter Tours. Soar into the sky and see Hong Kong from a different perspective by taking a helicopter tour.

HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD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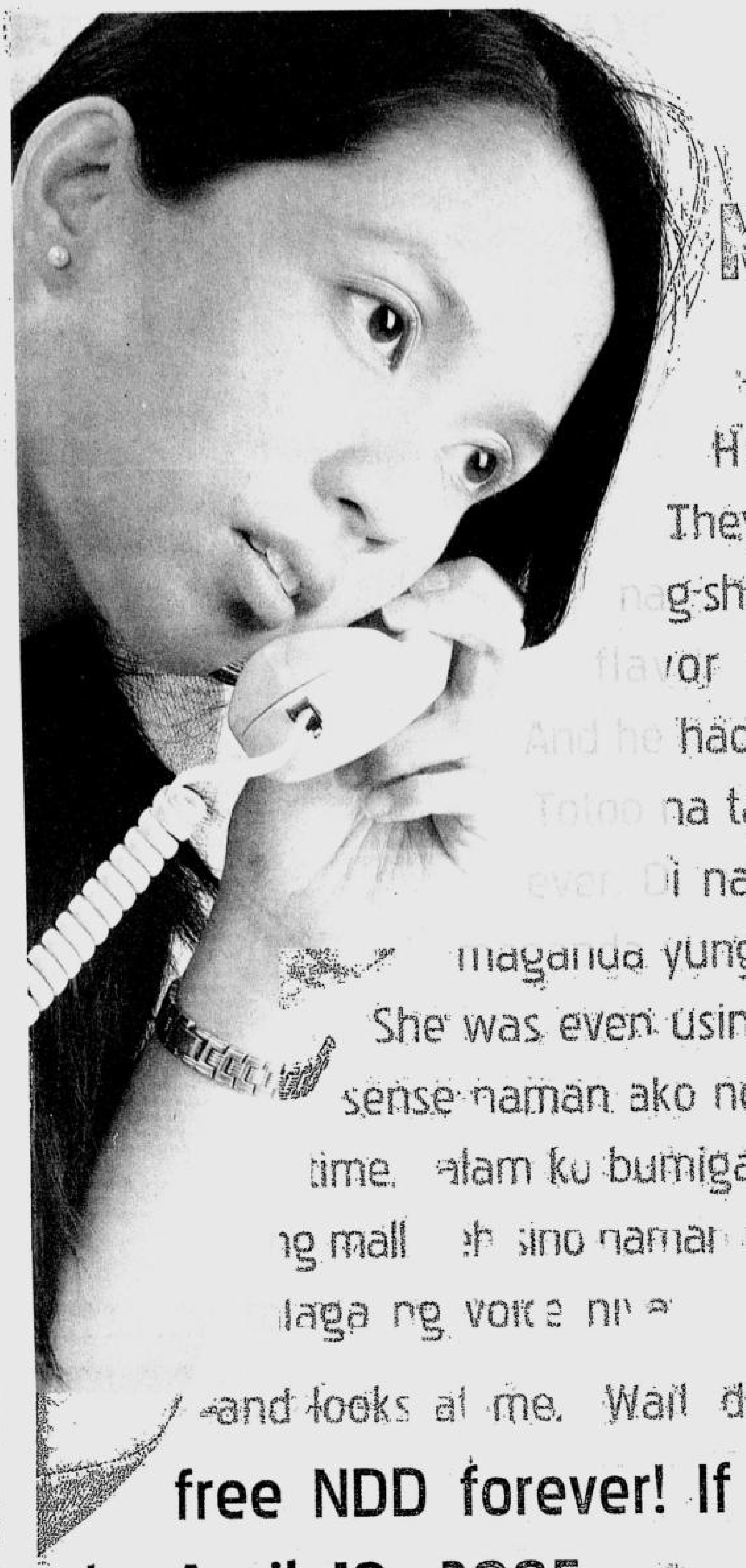

Globelines

NDD ka na magbabayad!

Huling-huli ko talaga siya Portia.. They were coming out of a movie.. mukhang nag-share pa sila ng popcorn kasi parehong cheese flavor yung mantsa sa mga shirts nila. And he had the nerve to deny it!.. Ayoko na talaga. Totoo na talaga 'to believe me!.. I won't forgive him ever. Di na niya ko kaya bolahin! Eh hindi naman maganda yung girl! Tsaka di ko gusto yung shoes niya. She was even using the wrong bag for it. Mas may fashion sense naman ako no! I swear Portia, he's hurt me for the last time. Alam ko bumigay ako nung kinantahan niya ako sa gitna ng mall. Eh sino naman makakatiis [illegible] right? Kainis kasi ang ganda talaga ng voice niya. I remember I get so kilig when he sings and looks at me. Wait, don't go yet, don't worry! Sa Globelines **free NDD forever! If you apply between March 21 to April 19, 2005.** Ang dami ko na ngang natawagan eh. **Basta Globelines Postpaid to any Globelines phone anywhere in the country!** Which means **no per minute, no per call, no added charge! Libre talaga!** Teka, existing Globelines subscriber ka ba? **Current subscribers can just call to activate.** Ah talaga? Ikaw **hindi pa subscriber? Apply na!** Hay, ok talaga no? **Iba talaga ang libre!** Teka muna balik tayo sa problema ko. Never mind him na di ba?.. I hate him talaga! Mas masarap ba siya magluto ng brownies kaysa sa akin? I don't think so! Nag-ballet ba siya since kinder? I don't think so! Naging muse ba siya ng varsity for three straight years? I don't think so! Pag nakita ko talaga yung babaeng yun sasabunutan ko siya! . Hmph! Hindi na talaga makakalusot ang lalakeng yan sa akin! I don't care how cute he is. those eyes... those arms.. his hair... Portia nami-miss ko yata siya.

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Village resort breathes Thai heart and soul

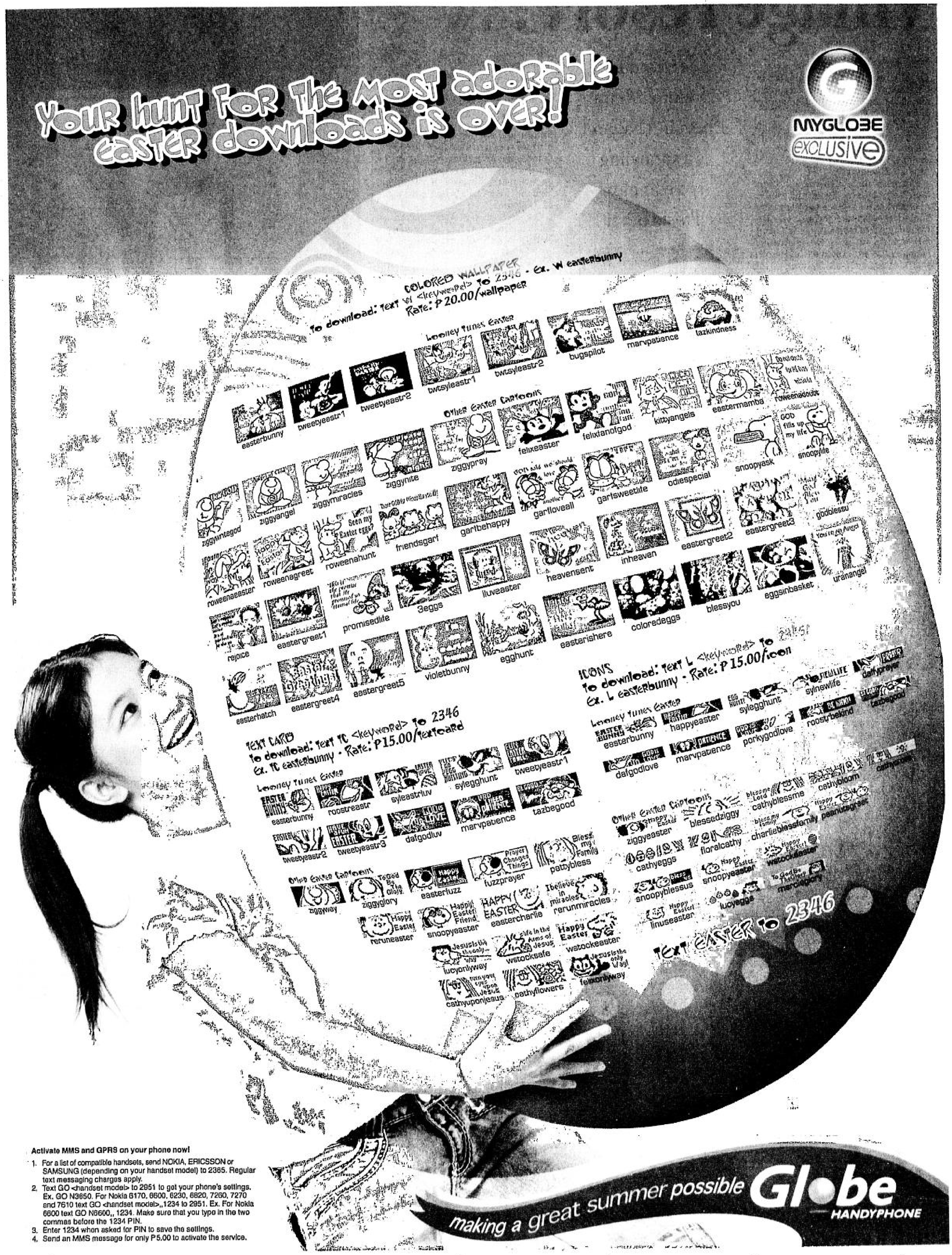
Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

HIGH-END holiday packages that combine culture and wellness have just gotten bigger and better in Thailand, particularly in the northern city of Chiang Mai (one hour by plane from Bangkok) with the recent opening of the Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi.

The 24-hectare attraction features 64 villas, a dozen or so faux temples and countless courtyards and walkways inspired by architecture from the Lanna period. Architectural influences may look similar to the untrained eye, but the structures' elements are quite myriad since the Lanna kingdom

VILLAGE/ F2

MINI RICE terraces in the middle of a high-end resort are one Dhara Dhevi's attractions.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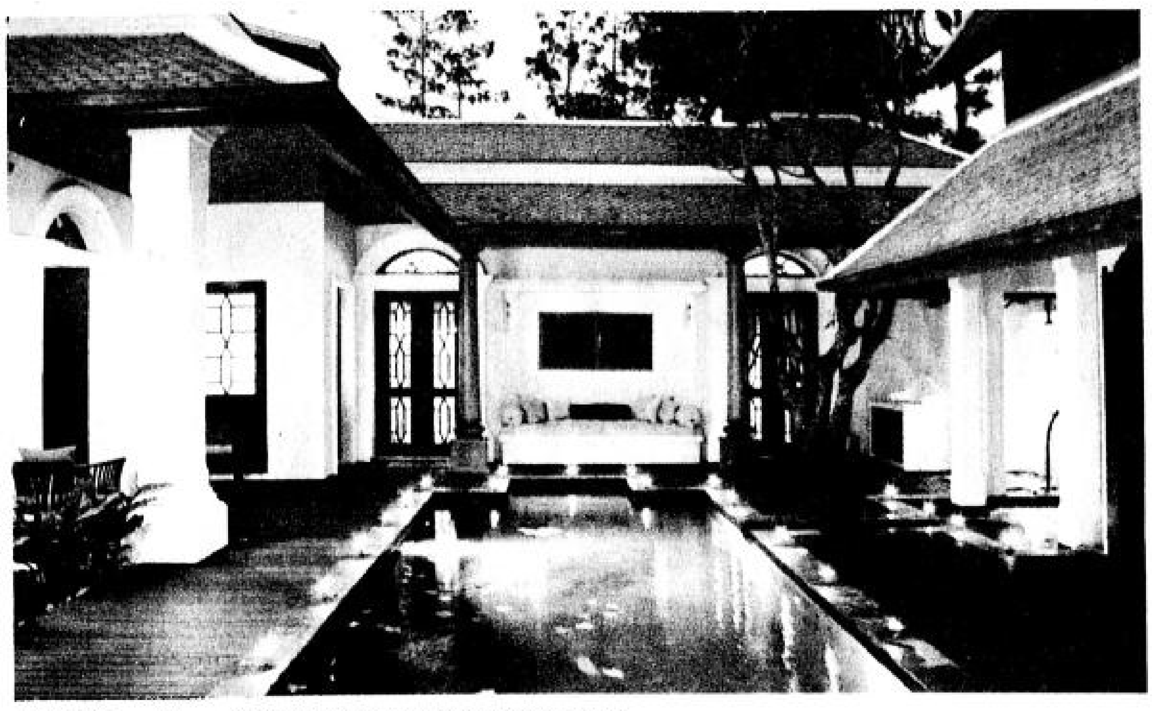
A POSH bedroom awaits tourists inside one of the resort's teak villas.



INDOOR pool for added privacy in one of the pricier villas

Village resort . . .

From page F1

presided over a vast area, which included northern Thailand, parts of Burma, Laos and southern China from 1259-1558.

Intricate would certainly be an understatement to describe each of the major structures, small throwbacks to the past with details drawn from centuries-old buildings.

Except for three high-end villas with their own infinity pools and design flourishes that are more Las Vegas than Southeast Asian, the cheaper, relatively more austere teak villas look uncannily similar. But upon closer scrutiny, no two villas are exactly alike. Despite sharing such open-air features as the kitchen, dining area and Jacuzzi, each air-conditioned unit is set apart from the other by a plethora of details.

"The place is not a theme park," says Savas Rattakunjara, Dhara Dhevi's executive assistant manager. "When they learn the story behind each building's design, a lot of people are convinced that Dhara Dhevi is almost like the real thing."

Introductory rates can set back the high-flying tourist by $295 per villa, per night. More luxurious deluxe villas with two bedrooms and an outdoor pool are priced much higher at $1,600 per. Log in at www.mandarinoriental.com for more details.

> The Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi in Thailand is a sprawling spa complex like no other

Construction on the resort's second phase is now in full swing. Once finished in November, the two-story Burmese-style colonial building will house 80 high-ceilinged suites (think Singapore's Raffles Hotel), a jazz bar, winery and sushi place. Apart from its outdoor café, Dhara Dhevi currently offers guests three fine-dining options: Grand Lanna (northern Thai cuisine), Fujian (Chinese dishes) and Farang Ses (French dishes).

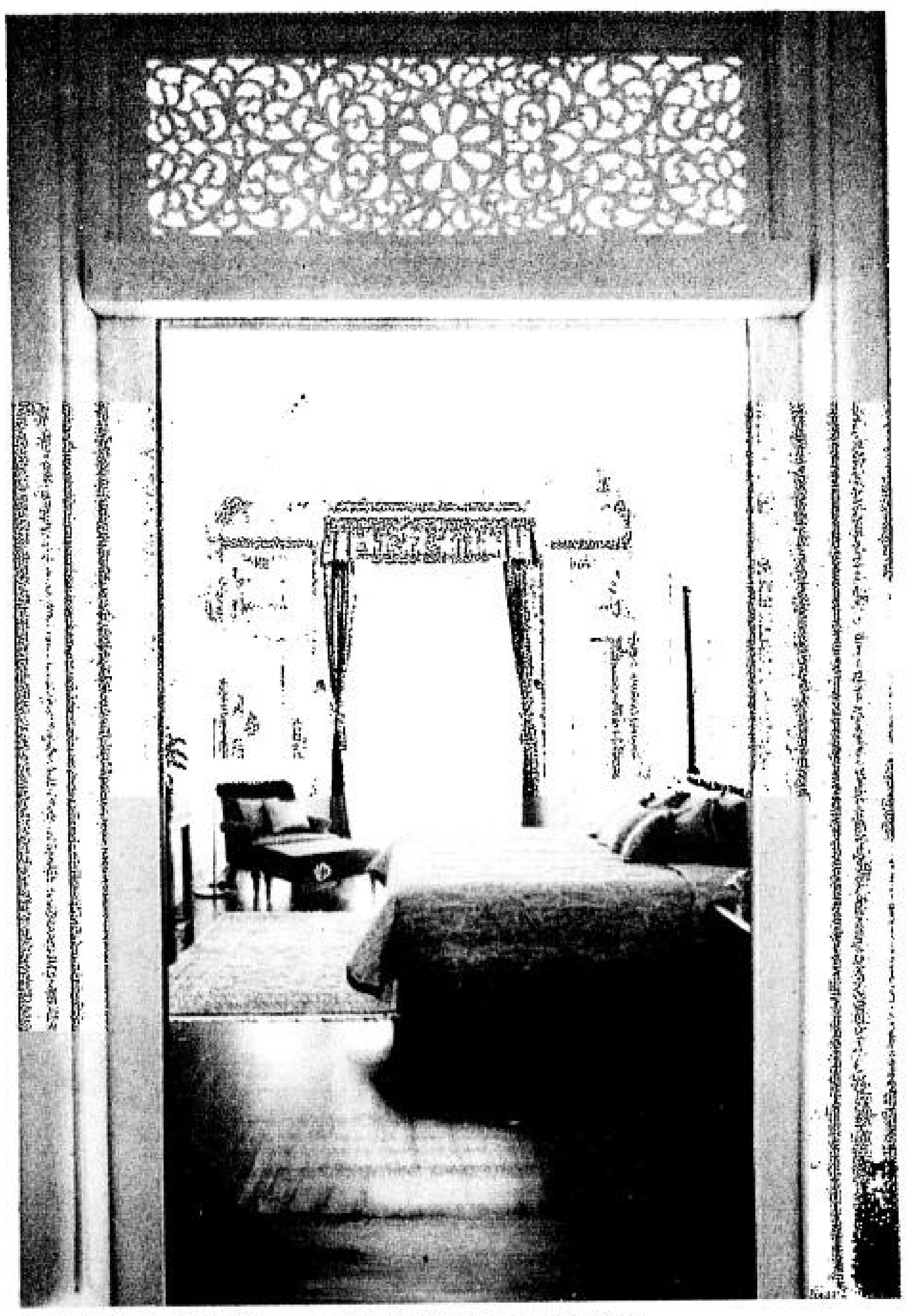
Much walking

It will entail a lot of walking to get around the sprawling village resort. The unfit and the plain lazy, however, need not worry, as buggies or oversized golf carts are on call 24 hours a day to ferry guests from one point of the property to another.

Built at a cost of $90 million (and counting!) over a three-year period, the three-month-old Dhara Dhevi also boasts of pocket gardens, rice barns, cobbled streets, moats, wooden bridges and a series of man-made rice terraces with a real carabao thrown in. Indeed, the only thing missing in the entire setup is a live elephant. It won't be farfetched, however, if people behind the resort bring in one in the name of authenticity.

Owner Suchet Suwanmonguol, an avid collector of Lanna art, spared no expense as he hired local architects, artisans and laborers to turn his dream into a reality. He and his creative consultants traveled far and wide across the region, including to Singapore and Bali, to get ideas.

But the owner's interest goes beyond pure aesthetics, as he has a library run by professional librarians built to house his collection of books and DVDs on Southeast Asia. Guests are welcome to linger in the library—if they still have the time—or bring "home" reading and viewing materials to their respective villas.



DON'T think of the bill as you luxuriate in the lap of luxury.

To underscore how serious he is about such concerns, the owner even hired a director of art and culture in the person of American Claudine Nicole Triolo. Guests need not leave the place, as she regularly conducts resort-wide tours either in Thai or English replete with nuggets of facts and trivia on Lanna culture.

Ladies may find trips to the mall and the weekend night market downtown unnecessary, what with a shopping plaza inside the resort lined with air-conditioned shops selling fabrics, jewelry and furniture pieces from various parts of the region.

Interestingly, Suwanmonguol is no native of Chiang Mai, but he fell in love with the place and its culture during a visit there five years ago. He first bought a Thai restaurant (Grand Lanna) and had it refurbished a little over three years ago.

Soon enough, the country's rich and famous were flocking to the fine-dining outlet. He took this as a cue to expand his venture by buying more land adjacent to the restaurant and converting the whole property into a resort hotel.

Tapped to manage

By virtue of its reputation behind The Oriental in Bangkok, considered by many as one of the world's best hotels, Mandarin Oriental was tapped to manage the Chiang Mai property. French GM Patrick-Denis Finet came onboard just before the first phase of construction started.

Since this is Finet's first time to work in Asia, he knew very little about the place and how the market would respond to Dhara Dhevi. He soon realized his fears were unfounded.

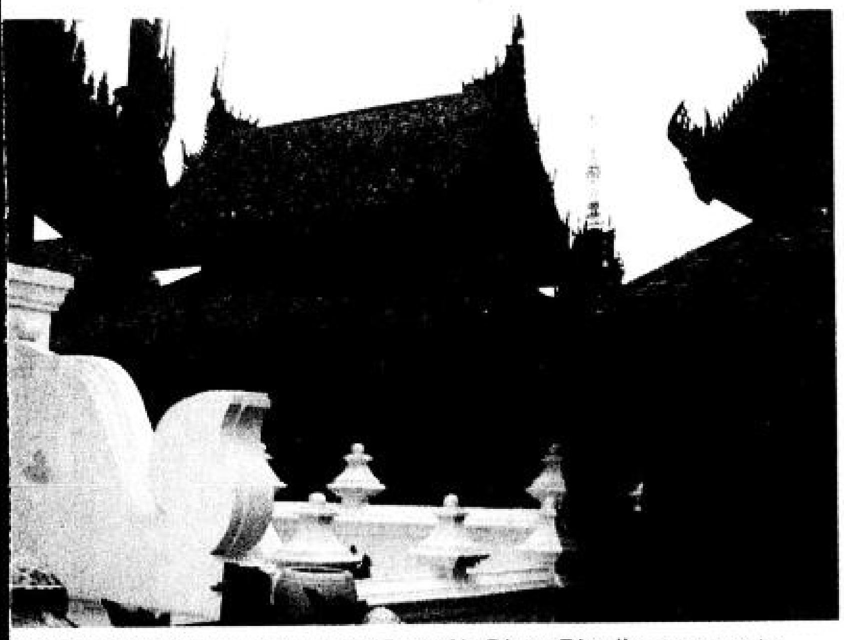
"We've had a 100-percent occupancy rate during the first three weeks we opened in December," he says. "We're now running between 45-60 percent (occupancy). Three groups from Europe and Hong Kong are now booked at the colonial suites."

Of course, a stay at Dhara Dhevi won't be complete without a visit to its spa (in fact, not a few tourists, including a number of wealthy Filipinos, travel all the way to Thailand just to "decompress" at one of its numerous wellness centers), which offers authentic massages and other pampering ceremonies culled from ancient practices.

GRAND entrance to an equally grand resort lobby awaits the high-flying tourist.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CAL talents made sure that no two villas are exactly alike.



VNER'S love for Lanna culture is reflected in Dhara Dhevi's many ornate
historically accurate buildings.

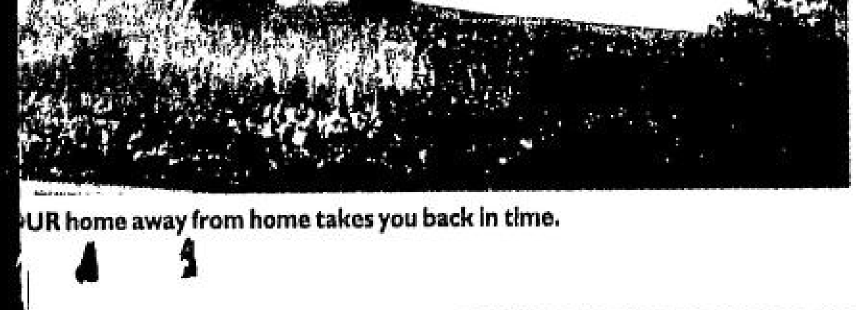
ENCHMAN Patrick-Denis Finet,
of Mandarin Oriental Dhara
evi

Actually, the experience is a mix of the old and the new since the spa offers modern-day amenities such as a heated marble table and *vicchi* shower amid the splendor of a faux Burmese palace fashioned from white marble and intricately carved dark wood (*more on this next time*).

But guests can expect more than just a spa. Dr. Suchada Marwah, an ayurvedic doctor and the spa's director, has already laid the groundwork for an ayurveda (Sanskrit for science of life) village with seven villas to be built specifically for relaxation (not diet!) therapies based on Indian holistic treatments. Wellness packages are designed to last anywhere from three to 21 days depending on the person's needs.

Once the ayurveda village, including the colonials suites, is up and running, there can't possibly be a more encompassing experience than what Dhara Dhevi offers its guests. Indeed, a virtual feast for both the soul and the senses.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



UR home away from home takes you back in time.

TravelBriefs

Indonesian tour

ASIA Society Philippine members are invited to join the Indonesia on my Mind tour April 10-17. The tour will cover Jakarta, Yogyakarta and Bali. The trip is part of Asia Society's Discovering Our Muslim Heritage series.
Asia Society is a nonprofit, nongovernment organization dedicated to fostering understanding of countries and cultures of the Asia Pacific Region. Call 7524374, 7519851 or 8108983. E-mail annieg@asiasoc.org.ph.

Summer exhibit/bazaar

The exhibit and bazaar, "Summer Destination," will be held at the Tektite Auditorium, Philippine Stock Exchange Building, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The exhibit will showcase adventure tours, nature awareness and entertainment, among others. It will also feature various handicrafts.
The ongoing monthly bazaar is held every Thursday and Friday. The next events will be held April 14 and 15, May 19 and 20, June 16 and 17. Call 8181964 or 0917-5333998.

A unique Chicago experience

Chicago Neighborhood Tours, a division of the Chicago Office of Tourism, will have the popular Neighborhood Sampling Special Interest Tour 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., March 12. Visitors will be taken on a tasting tour of several Chicago neighborhoods with ethnic food guide, Evelyn Thompson. They will be able to sample dishes from neighborhood bakeries, delis, restaurants and more. Chicago Neighborhood Tours will visit the lakefront communities of Hyde Park and Kenwood (Neighborhood Tour) 10 a.m.- 2:30 p.m., March 19. Guests will see the distinct architectural styles of the two neighborhoods that have some of the city's most historic mansions and homes. The itinerary includes The Oriental Institute Museum, St. Thomas the Apostle Church and the University of Chicago Campus. The cost of each Neighborhood Tour is $25 for adults ($20 for seniors/students), including refreshments. Special Interest Tours are $50 ($45 for seniors/students), including lunch. Gift certificates are also available. Call (312)7421190 or visit www.ChicagoNeighborhoodTours.com. Neighborhood Tours and Special Interest Tours depart by motorcoach from the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph Street at Michigan Avenue at 10 a.m. (check-in is 9:30 a.m.) Those from outside the United States, Mexico and Canada, call 1-312-2018847. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-866-7100294. Information is also available at www.cityofchicago.org/ExploringChicago.

Special room rate for locals

The Richmonde Hotel now offers Special Local Residents' Rates. Local residents and expatriates with valid ACR can now experience the hotel's hospitality for only P2,800++ for a superior room, P3,000++ for a junior suite, P3,500++ for a one-bedroom suite and P4,500++ for a two-bedroom suite. City and provincial dwellers may take advantage of even lower rates when staying for 14 nights or more. All room rates are good for single and double occupancy, with buffet breakfast, free use of the Health Club facilities such as the gym, indoor poll and steam/sauna rooms, discounts at Head Zone salon plus other amenities. One- and two-bedroom suites are equipped with full-service kitchen and dining facilities while junior suite occupants have the option to avail of a mobile kitchenette. This offer is not valid during conventions or in conjunction with other promos. Call 6387777.

Not just for water babies

Fairways & Bluewater Golf and Country Club in Boracay lets you enjoy a wide array of activities this summer. Aside from swimming, the resort offers water sports like jet skiing and windsurfing. The recreation center has facilities for billiards and table tennis. Guests can also go horseback riding. Those who are not too fond of seawater can enjoy the freshwater swimming pool, one of Boracay's largest. The hotel's 18-hole Graham Marsh golf course has been described as one of the most beautiful in the world. The grand Mediterranean-inspired villas of Fairways & Bluewater are reputedly the most luxurious accommodations on the island. The villas contain several units that are centrally air-conditioned and fully furnished. Each unit has its own large den that opens to a balcony overlooking the golf course, a kitchen and bar, a sizable dining area, large bedrooms with two huge beds, two large bathrooms with tubs. Those in ground-floor units have lounging areas that spill to the golf course at the back. Fairways and Bluewater has been ranked by Interval International, which rates the best destinations, as a five-star destination. Call 6331393.

Retreat for the world-weary soul

On an island off the northern coast of Cebu, a traveler can find unspoiled beaches as beautiful as those in Boracay, Palawan and Bohol, in an old town steeped in history and rooted in faith. Bantayan Island is the new haven for soul-searchers and sun-worshippers. Enhanced communication connectivity, improved road network and a small well-maintained airstrip for charter flights opened up the island recently to the rest of the Philippines. The name comes from the watchtowers built all over the island in the 17th century. Bantayan's past as a Hispanic settlement is visible in its layout, with the church and its plaza in the center, and houses and other establishments built around them. The Spanish influence is also evident in the old Bantayan folks' religious traditions. On Holy Thursday and Good Friday, they hold the Pasko sa Kasakit or Semana Santa sa Bantayan, a procession of life-size statues mounted on huge, richly decorated *carrozas* depicting the passion and death of Jesus Christ. The statues, sculpted in the 1800s, have been handed down from generation to generation. As for the beaches, the municipality of Santa Fe, in particular, is known for its coastline, with fine, white sand and waters so clear one can watch fish swim and feed. Santa Fe's beautiful resorts offer privacy and serenity. To get to Bantayan, take a brief 30-minute flight from Cebu City. By land, ride a bus from Cebu City to San Remigio, where inter-island ferries to Santa Fe are available. There is also a night ferry direct from Cebu City to Santa Fe.

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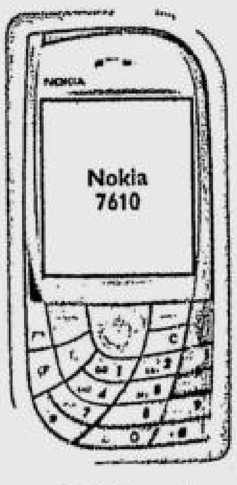

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MODEL Nicolette Bell shows off her flawless face courtesy of Laura Mercier.

Flawless on her wedding day

LAURA Mercier in-house makeup artist Irene Manigo says blushing brides can enjoy their big day without worrying about having to constantly retouch their makeup, thanks to Laura Mercier's Secret Concealer products that help create a smooth, flawless complexion.

THERE'S nothing as beautiful as the radiant glow of a woman on her wedding day. After all, not only is it one of the most memorable moments in her life, it is also the beginning of a new life with the man of her dreams.

And what woman doesn't want to put her best face forward with a classic, flawless face? That's why more women are sporting the look of Laura Mercier for their big day.

Internationally acclaimed makeup artist Laura Mercier has made a name for herself in the world of fashion and beauty as one of the most sought-after and innovative makeup artists today, with celebrity clients like supermodel Linda Evangelista, actress Sarah Jessica Parker and pop icon Madonna, among others.

Using her background as a painter, Laura developed specialized products and makeup techniques to create her trademark "flawless face."

"The Laura Mercier look is really well-suited for a bride because it's very minimalist and natural-looking in keeping with Laura's philosophy to enhance the natural beauty of a woman," says Toni Abad, events and promotions manager for Rustan's Cosmetics and Toiletries Department.

"All brides want to look fresh and have skin that's glowing, which is exactly what Laura Mercier is about. Laura created great founda-

FLAWLESS/ G2

A FRESH-SCRUBBED face is the best canvas for achieving Laura Mercier's "flawless face," as demonstrated by Nicolette in this "before" photo.

LIPSTICK is then applied.

MANIGO adds a touch of shimmery eye color for evening weddings, then demonstrates how to properly blend eye colors to create a flawless face.

See 1001 bunnies today.

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Egg hunt, carnival, variety shows
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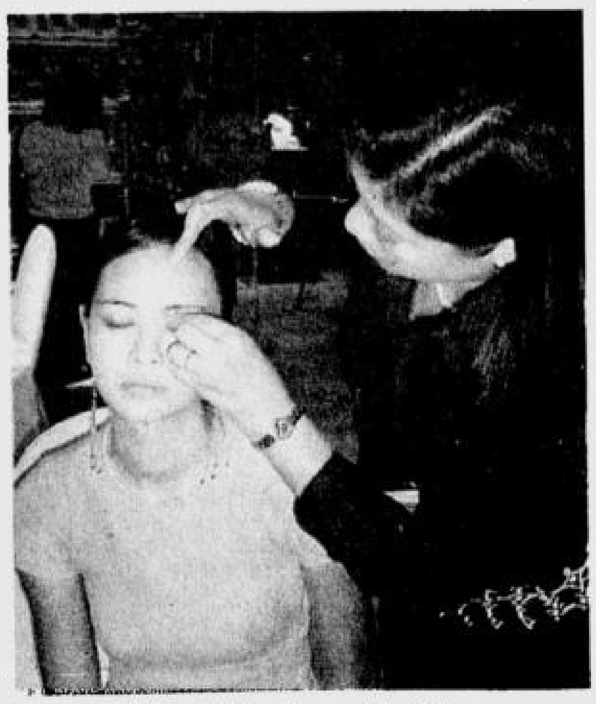
GUIA Sy

'Bride' wears lace and silk

MODEL Guia Sy, University of Santo Tomas student, wore an Eddie Baddeo creation at the "Wedding March," a bridal fair organized and sponsored by INQUIRER Sunday Lifestyle and held at the NBC Tent, The Fort, Taguig.

Sy wore an off-shoulder gown made of dupioni silk and French lace bodice, a voluminous skirt traced with sugar, caviar beads and Swarovski crystals. A detachable train and headdress attached with flowers and bouquet was done by Tony Rodriguez. Image styling was by Eric Maningat of Studio 546. The show was directed by Raymond Villanueva.

The Baddeo atelier is at 63 West Avenue, Quezon City, tels. 3715843/9384.



THE MAKEUP artist touches up blemishes or any discolorations before applying the foundation.

APPLYING Laura Mercier Foundation Primer helps even out the skin tone and allows the foundation to adhere better.

RUSTAN'S beauty consultant Mylene Quijano demonstrates how using the proper makeup brush when applying makeup can help one achieve precise application.

Flawless on her wedding day

From page G1

tion that provides a natural, flawless finish. She believes that you have to feel confident about your skin, especially for brides on their big day."

Abad and the Laura Mercier team, led by in-house makeup artist Irene Manigo and beauty consultant Mylene Quijano, recently demonstrated the many looks of Laura Mercier for different types of weddings during the two-day bridal fair, "Weddings at Bellevue," which was held at The Bellevue Hotel in Alabang.

The team of makeup artists showed the seven basic steps to achieving a flawless face, beginning with a Foundation Primer—a light and non-greasy botanical primer that creates an invisible layer of protection and helps the foundation to adhere better—then a foundation to even out the skin tone.

Laura Mercier has several different types of foundation for various skin types and needs, including Foundation Powder for maximum coverage and especially good for oily skin, Moisturizing Foundation for a sheer "no make-up" look, Foundation Stick for a creamier, velvety finish and Tinted Moisturizer with SPF protection for a natural, dewy look.

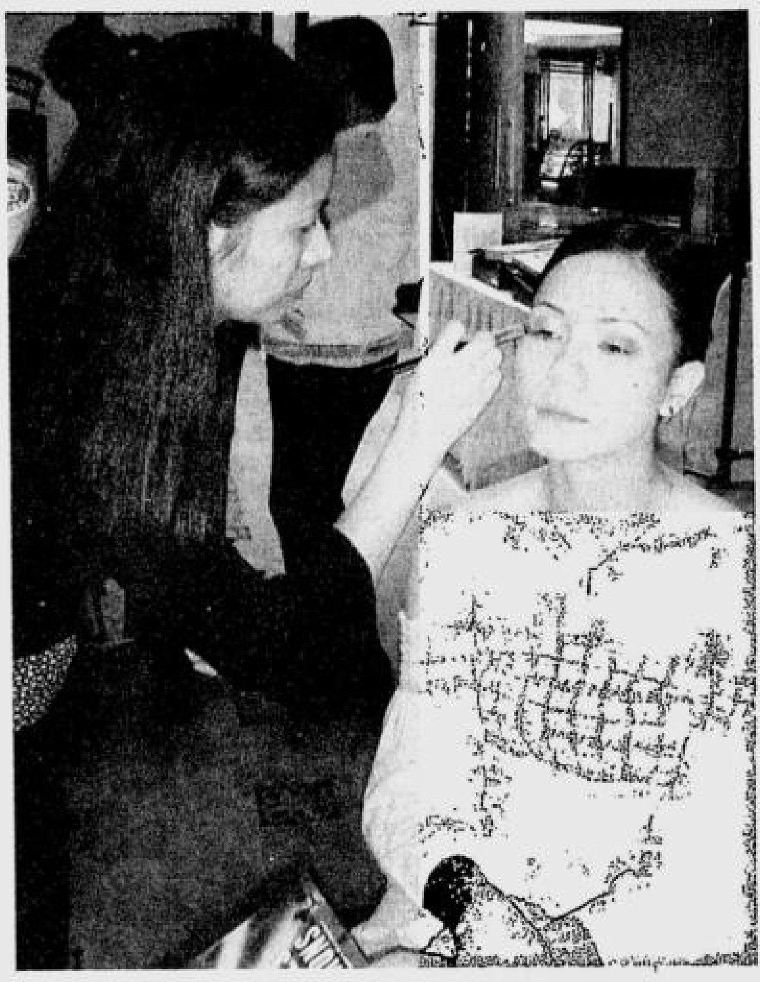
After the foundation, the makeup artists applied Laura Mercier's Secret Concealer products, beginning with Secret Brightening Powder to set and add a lightening boost to skin, followed by Secret Concealer and Secret Camouflage, two of Laura Mercier's best selling products which cover dark circles, blemishes and other discolorations.

They finished these off with Laura Mercier's Setting Powder and Secret Finish for a radiant glow.

The "flawless face" provides the perfect canvas for creating different looks for all occasions, whether it's an outdoor, daytime wedding or a more dramatic, evening affair.

Using these tips from Laura Mercier, any woman can have a flawless face and be the beautiful bride she's always wanted to be.

Laura Mercier is available exclusively at Essenses.



QUIJANO puts the finishing touches on model Angel Agustin.

Healthy Teeth & Gums for Life
Tips from the Dentist

WHY DO DENTISTS RECOMMEND A **POWER TOOTHBRUSH?**

Just like any new beauty or health trend — South Beach diet, capoeira or wellness centers — power toothbrushes may just be the latest thing to consider for Filipinos who want to care for their teeth and flash their whitest smiles.

Undoubtedly when it comes to brushing, the Philippines remains a manual toothbrush market. However, times are changing, with more people opting for more advanced tools like power toothbrushes for the ultimate in oral health care.

Dr. Cherry Gotamco answers some frequently asked questions on the power toothbrush—from how to use it to why kids could love it:

1. How is a power toothbrush different from a manual toothbrush? Does it really clean teeth better?

Numerous studies have shown that use of an electric toothbrush can reduce plaque by as much as 7% more than manual toothbrushes, as well as lead to a decrease in gum disease by 17%. A recent study performed by the University of Buffalo Dental School, showed that electric toothbrushes more effectively reduce the levels of two bacteria that have been associated with gum disease.

There are many kinds of electric toothbrushes in the market and researchers at the Cochrane Collaboration's Oral Health Group at the University of Manchester in Britain have shown that only one kind of electric toothbrush - those with heads that clean teeth by rotation oscillation - are the ones that are more effective in cleaning teeth and gums.

2. What are the benefits and advantages of using a power toothbrush? By how much does it improve gingival health vs a manual?

Effective toothbrushing with a manual toothbrush is heavily dependent on proper technique, and unless one performs this "mindfully," no length of time, no amount of pressure, no special toothpaste can ever ensure clean teeth and healthy gums. I think people tend to be mindful when they use the electric toothbrush. They realize that to cover all bases, they have to apply the brush head onto every tooth surface unlike the manual toothbrush, which they tend to use haphazardly and absentmindedly.

3. Is the power toothbrush safe to use? How about for kids, knowing that they have sensitive teeth?

Yes, it is very safe to use and I think it does magic to kids in the sense that it makes brushing fun! Kids would be more motivated to brush their teeth with the power toothbrush. Also kids can be trained to brush the recommended 2 to 4 minutes as some models come with memory timers to track brushing time. Just make sure to brush regularly for a minimum of 3x a day and the bristle head should be replaced once every 2-3 months.

4. Why should Filipino consumers change their brushing habits and use a power toothbrush?

The Filipino dental consumer has increasingly become health conscious. Unfortunately many are still in the dark about how good oral health can contribute to one's total body health and well-being. But with increasing awareness and knowledge about dental disease, its causes and most importantly its prevention, it is hoped that it won't be long before the Filipino dental consumer would be as willing to spend for a power toothbrush as he would for a new cell phone – which costs several times more than a power toothbrush!

Which toothbrush to use is a matter of personal preference. One must bear in mind though, that a power toothbrush - just like the most technologically sophisticated gadget — if used by a person without being mindful of the proper method and technique, won't be as effective at all.

Dr. Cherry Jane L. Gotamco, DMD, obtained her Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of the Philippines and ranked 3rd place in the Dental Board Licensure Examination. She was a Lecturer and Clinical Instructor in MCU and CEU. A member of the Speaker's Bureau of the Philippine Dental Association, she operates her own clinic on Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

A landmark, independent study finds that Oral-B Power technology cleans best

The independent study by Cochrane Collaboration, an international, non-profit health research group, found that rotation-oscillation toothbrushes, like the Oral-B Power toothbrushes, reduce plaque and gingivitis by between 7% and 17% more than manual brushes.

The complete line of Oral-B Power toothbrushes deliver more cleaning action in every stroke to provide an overall feeling of clean that goes beyond a manual toothbrush. Choose from the complete range of Oral-B Power toothbrushes: from Electric Rechargeable Toothbrushes—Professional Care 5000 and Advance Power 900 series, to Battery Toothbrushes—Advance Power 400 series and Kids Battery Toothbrushes.

Oral-B The Brand More Dentists Use Themselves

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

For a stress-free dream wedding

PATIO Victoria is now offering almost everything a couple needs for their wedding.

It can provide bridal bouquets and flowers for the entourage, flowers for the church, wedding cake, souvenirs, invitations, bridal car, wedding rings, photography, string quartet, singers or live band plus a wedding coordinator, if required.

An exciting new package includes a choice of made-to-order wedding gowns designed by Cristina Gonzalez Romualdez. Gowns for the entourage are also available.

Located at 5435 Gen. Luna corner Victoria Sts. in Intramuros, Patio Victoria's gardens, named after her daughters Sophia and Diana, can accommodate 900 guests while an air-conditioned indoor banquet hall can seat an additional 100 guests.

The gardens have a gazebo where the couple, their parents and sponsors can seat.

Patio Victoria's wedding packages include a choice of menu, flowers, three-tiered fondant wedding cake, cake table with flower arrangements, decorated wedding cage with a pair of doves, bottle of champagne, a torch parade for the couple's entrance, a cake-cutting ceremony, signature frame, guest book, complimentary use of the Cristina Executive Suite, red carpet for bride and groom, flower centerpieces and candelabras, personalized place cards and menu cards and chair covers.

Patio Victoria has ample free parking space as well as a standby generator to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity.

Patio Victoria specializes in Spanish and international cuisine.

Call 5278006, 5261953, 0917-7956726 or go to inquiries@patiovictoria.com.

New roof for Easter

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE DIOCESE of Laoag has another reason to celebrate Easter today. The St. William's Cathedral, built in 1675, has a new roof with steel frames. The roof replaced the stone church's termite-infested old one.

During the construction, the cathedral was closed for four months since Aug. 15. It was opened for the Christmas season, but the ceiling was covered with canvas.

I was in Laoag recently and attended the Domingo de Ramos (Palm Sunday) Mass. Only the section near the altar had yet to be completed.

Msgr. Jack Jose told me he would see to it the ceiling of the dome was completed during Holy Week.

Things that seemed impossible were possible with God. Msgr. Jose and the parish pastoral council proved this by going ahead with the project.

They raised P10 million for the project with donations from the people, the Diocese of Munich in Germany and the Vatican through the Propagation of the Faith office.

Steel trusses were provided by A&K Contractors of Caloocan City; galvanized iron sheets were sent by Excel Coil Coating Corp. of Manila and installed by City Glass of Laoag.

The renovation and repair of the roof were conceived and supervised by a group of engineers and architects headed by Msgr. Jose. The chief consultant was architect Romeo Narvaez Jr. Members were engineers Josephine Marapao and Richard Mata; and architects Jun Marapao, Nestor de la Cruz and Jeff Aplicador.

Religious organizations, especially the Confraternity of Our Lady of Perpetual Help of which my mother, Lourdes Darang, is a member, were the prayer warriors that stormed heaven to make the project possible.

The project was fully paid for and, according to the parish priest, the cathedral doesn't owe a cent.

The 330-year-old church was made the seat of the Diocese of Laoag in 1961 when it was canonically erected and constituted into a cathedral.

Museum

The Museo Ilocos Norte on General Luna St. in Laoag is one of the city's attractions. The place was formerly the Tabacalera, built in 1878 as the administrative center of the Tobaco Monopoly in Ilocos Norte.

The provincial government headed by Governor Bongbong Marcos launched a major rehabilitation in 1999. With the help of the team of Ricky Jose, Eric Cerrudo and Al Valenciano as art director, the place was transformed into a museum of the treasures of the province.

The Gameng Foundation with Irene Marcos Araneta as chair established this beautiful edifice that chronicles the history and industry of the province. *Gameng*, Ilocano word for treasure, is an appropriate name. This information came from Araceli Albano-Drake, museum administrator and board member.

Other members of the foundation are lawyer Lisa Araneta-Marcos, secretary; Mary Ang, treasurer; Ricky Jose, Al Valenciano, Araceli Pastor, Sally Aoigan, Fr. Danilo Laeda, Frank Bitagon and the Kannawidan.

Recently put up was the Ilocos Norte Trade and Tourism and SME Center and the *dap-ayan* that sells handicraft. Available at the museum is the Ilocos Norte Travel Guide. Text 0920-5090552 or call (077)7704587.

Painting from dreams

When he was alive, Raul S. Dumaual painted from his dreams, foremost of which was the painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary holding a little boy and a roll of papers. "Mary, Help the Little Ones" now hangs in the church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Makati, brought there by Msgr. Salvador Jose who previously hung it at the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Mandaluyong.

Raul, who died of cancer at age 22 in 1992, did mostly religious paintings. His works will be exhibited on April 1 at the San Agustin Museum. Annie S. Meñez, who sent the story is the sister of Raul's deceased maternal grandmother, Rocio R. Dumaual. Details of the story came mostly from Raul's mother, Zita.

The exhibit marks the 13th anniversary of Raul's death.

Catechists

Artists from the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music will perform at the St. Joseph Church in Laoag on May 26 to raise funds for the hiring of professional catechists who will teach the children regularly. The project is spearheaded by Nonong Ablan.

Enthronement

Edna Toral, who led the enthronement of several images of Our Lady of Manaoag in Cebu, said the St. Isidore Parish in Calaba, Biliran, Leyte would have an enthronement on March 31. She said at least 12,000 pilgrims visited the Rosary Center of Our Lady of Manaoag in Barrio Corte, Carmen, Cebu.

She added pilgrims were already planning another visit even before they left the place. In Cebu alone, 23 churches have welcomed the replica image of Our Lady of Manaoag, including the Immaculate Heart of Mary church of the Angel of Peace Community in Talisay, with Msgr. Cris Garcia as rector; and Sto. Tomas de Tolentino Parish in Malabuyuc, Southern Cebu.

Easter Mass

Our Lady Mary Mediatrix of All Grace Chapel at Monterey Hills, San Mateo, Rizal will hold Easter Sunday Masses today. Sally Lamson of the Order of Melchizedek Foundation said many people attended chapel's Palm Sunday and Good Friday activities.

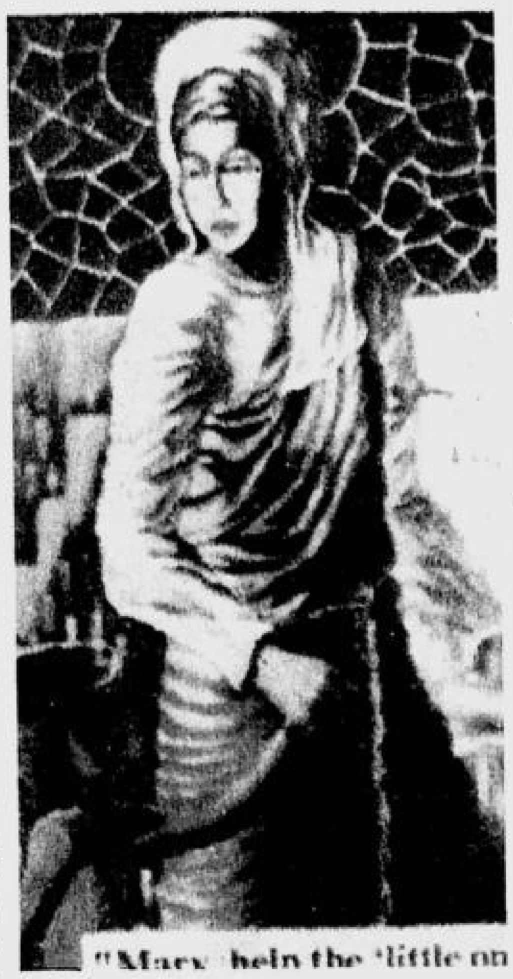
Retreat

Sister Fidelis Estrada of the Assumption will hold a retreat workshop for men and women using the "enneagram," a personality theory that describes nine different personalities to make you understand yourself and others. The retreat will be held April 2-3 at Assumption College in San Lorenzo. Text 0918-9120611.

Healing concert

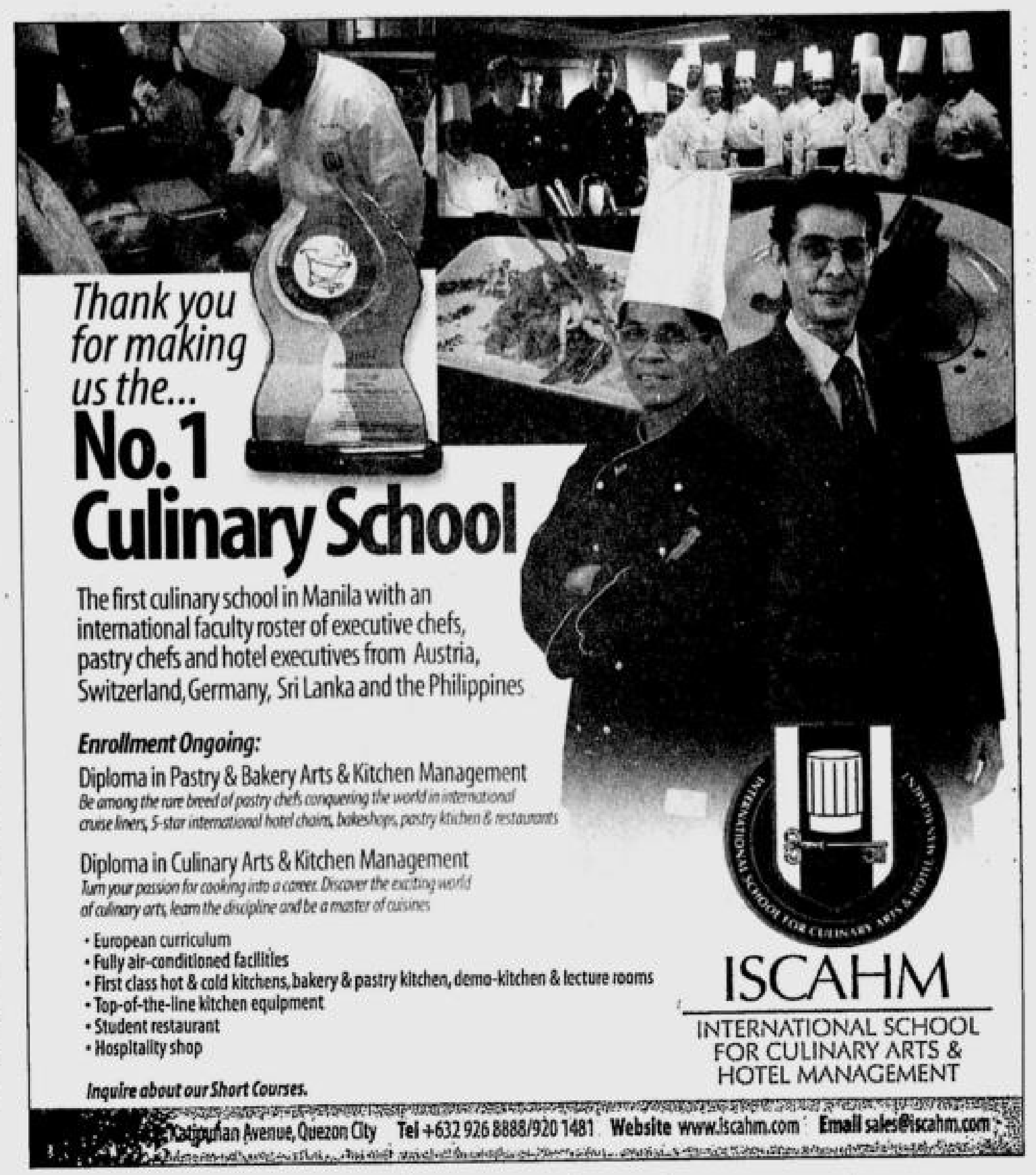
Fr. Nelson Osorio, OSJ, will hold a God's healing concert at the town plaza of San Jose, Batangas at 6 p.m., March 27. This will cap the month-long celebration in honor of St. Joseph. The concert is free.

Happy Easter! Wishing you a new life in the Lord.


"Mary help the little on

"MARY, help the little ones" painting by Raul Dumaual Jr.

ST. WILLIAM'S Cathedral in Laoag has new steel—for a roof.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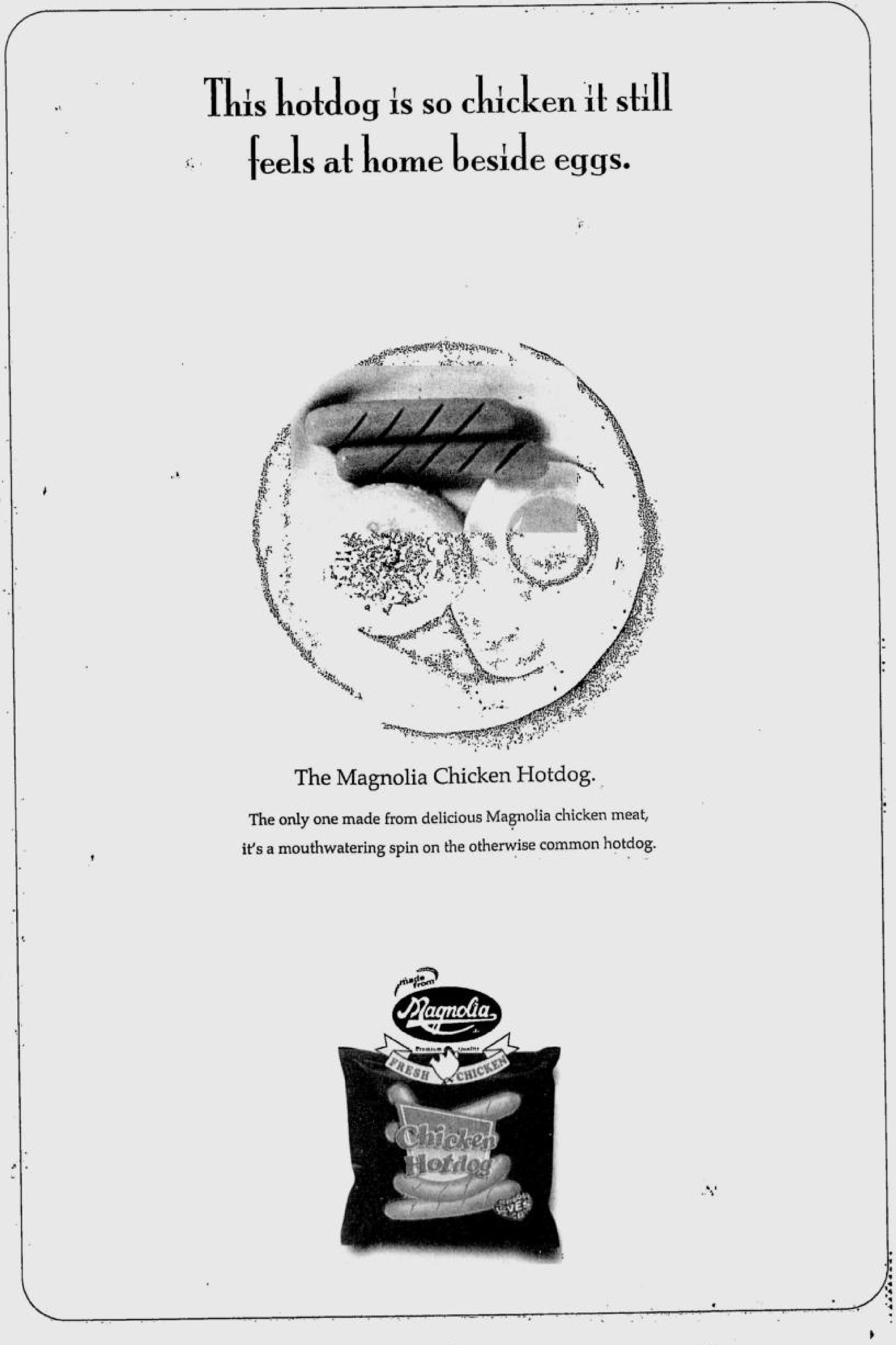

This hotdog is so chicken it still feels at home beside eggs.

The Magnolia Chicken Hotdog.

The only one made from delicious Magnolia chicken meat, it's a mouthwatering spin on the otherwise common hotdog.

CHIONGBIAN FAMILLE. Tricia, Clarice, Lola Clara Alvarez, the couple, Lola Precy Chiongbian; and Dondi's parents Philip Chiongbian and Yeyet Albert

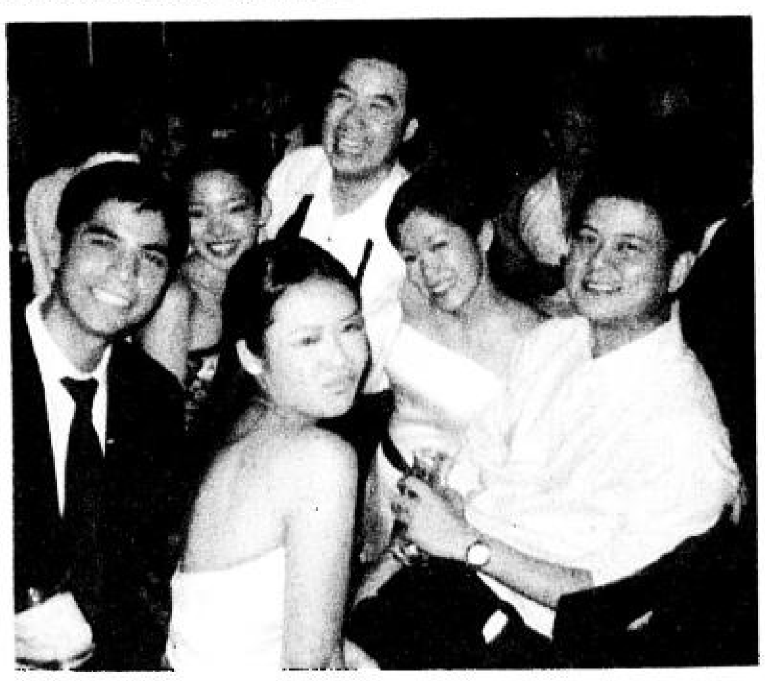
THE VILLAROSA CLAN. Joey Reyes, Bunny Reyes, Mikaela Reyes, Mikho Villarosa, Rep. Girlie Villarosa, the bride's mother, the newlyweds, bride's father Joe Villarosa, Nanny Drilon with Gabe, Mayette Villarosa with Andie and Antonio, Tabby Drilon with Mica, and Anthony Villarosa with Rafa Drilon

CHIONGBIAN-VILLAROSA

From badminton arena to wedding aisle

SEE what bachelor parties can do when they happen the night before the wedding? The good-looking groomsmen: GP Reyes, Anton Palma, Miko Javier, Andrei Marinenko, Caloy Posadas, Robbie Dinglasan and Nikki Valero

HEY BEAUTIFUL! Eye-catching bridesmaids Clarisse Chiongbian, Celine Gabriel, Vanessa Dim, Rose Montenegro, Angela Reyes, Louele Soong and Denise Albert



IT'S TEQUILA TIME. Partying pack includes (clockwise from left) Raj Moreno, Sam Yen, Boompy Martel, Andy Cruz, INQUIRER's Paolo Prieto and Denise Albert.

FORMER model and Rep. Emily Lopez, Rep. Lorna Silverio, Sen. Mar Roxas and Rep. Girlie Villarosa

Text by Maurice Arcache

ALMOST eight years ago, a *tres charmant* scrapper of a guy confidently told a shy little gal that she was going to end up going out with him after a game of badminton.

We don't know if that indeed happened, but recently, good-looking Dondi Chiongbian and pretty Sookie Villarosa were happily pronounced "man and wife," dahlings.

The couple's personal touch went into every aspect of this love happening—thanks to their wedding coordinator, Kasalan.

The ceremony was held at the Santuario de San Antonio, naturellement, officiated by Fr. Toy Manlangit and colorfully decorated by the popular Flower Farm.

A smiling Dondi, in a tuxedo by Paul Cabral, waited for his bride, while beside him were best men, brother Raymund Romualdez and childhood pal Joe Couvillon. His proud parents, business magnate Philip Chiongbian and attractive Yeyet Albert, led the grand entourage march, followed by the couple's principal sponsors, hot namedroppables like Sen. Mar Roxas and fashion plate Emily Lopez; Rep. Roque Ablan (representing Speaker Jose de Venecia) and Rep. Cynthia Villar; Reps. Eric Singson and Lorna Silverio; *moi* buddy Roy Chiongbian and Maureen Soong; Greggy Araneta and Naty Yap; and Tony Albert and Rozl Ricafrente.

The female entourage were in their eye-catching Thai and Indian silk gowns created by their longtime famille pal, brilliant couturier Patis Tesoro, no less.

Secondary sponsors were Joey Reyes and Tina Lagdameo; Abba Maramba and Toms Hino; and Tabby Drilon and Rina Villalon.

Maid of honor Tricia Chiongbian couldn't hold back her tears. Matrons of honor Nanny Drilon, Mayette Villarosa and Bunny Reyes marched in front of ring bearer Antonio Villarosa, flower girl Andie Villarosa and coin bearer Mia Drilon.

Sookie's parents, Jose Villarosa and Rep. Girlie Villarosa (who couldn't contain her tears), walked hand in hand in the middle of the aisle to wait for their youngest daughter's entrance.

Luminous bride

The main doors opened to the song of Moulin Rouge's "Come What May," and a luminous Sookie walked down the aisle in a masterful creation of piña over three layers of light tulle, and accessorized by carefully handcrafted beadwork across the top and criss-crossing her skirt.

Her veil, which was tightly gathered around her head and tied together at the back, exquisitely done by Patis T., blew guests away with its stylish, *tres* sleek and modern look.

The young couple read their own personal vows to one another, which left everyone breathless before they burst into thunderous cheers and applause.

An equally touching reception followed at the elegant Le Soufflé in Fort Bonifacio, decked with flowers by Designer Blooms.

The newlyweds danced to Chicane's "Love on the Run." All the guests received personalized CDs made by Blue Rain Multimedia, and they couldn't wait to dig into the sinful but oh-so-yummy white chocolate truffle cake, decorated with fresh strawberries, made by Le Soufflé 's brilliant chef Jessie Sincioco.

The best men toasted the groom to the delight of the invitees, as did Robbie Dinglasan, who did an impromptu speech on behalf of the groomsmen.

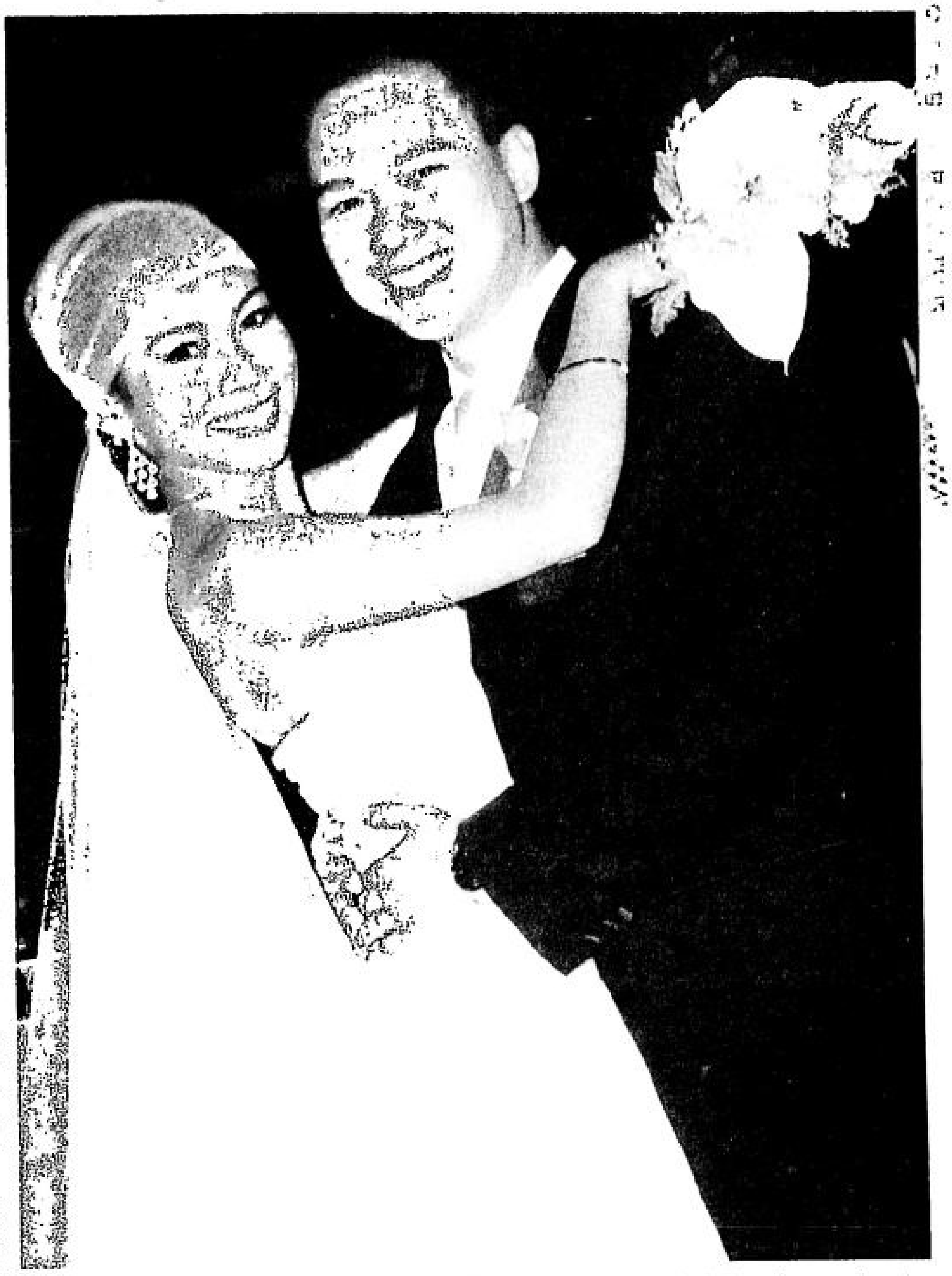
Dondi's sister and maid of honor Tricia Chiongbian, and Sookie's sister, Bunny Reyes, did their little speeches, too, palanggas.

Then, Dondi and Sookie hit the dance floor to the tune of their theme song, "Lover Lay Down" by Dave Matthews, and before you could bat an eyelash, the swinging band of Bernie Pasamba group and Trip M rocked the house. The tequila poured, and the party really got rolling.

Then it was a romantic honeymooning for the love birds who flew to Cambodia, Thailand and Palawan's El Nido resort.

The grandson of the late James Chiongbian, former solon and founder of Eastern Shipping Lines, Dondi graduated with a finance degree from George Washington University and with an MBA from the Asian Institute of Management. He is currently connected with two of his family's businesses, as well as with UK-based Renoir Consulting.

Sookie is an organizational communications degree holder, was recently connected with People Support Philippines Inc. as a human capital manager. Prior to that, she was a headhunter at ZMG Signium Ward Howell, and a preschool teacher at CPC.



THE happy young couple, Mr. and Ms Dondi Chiongbian, pose for their first picture after the ceremony.

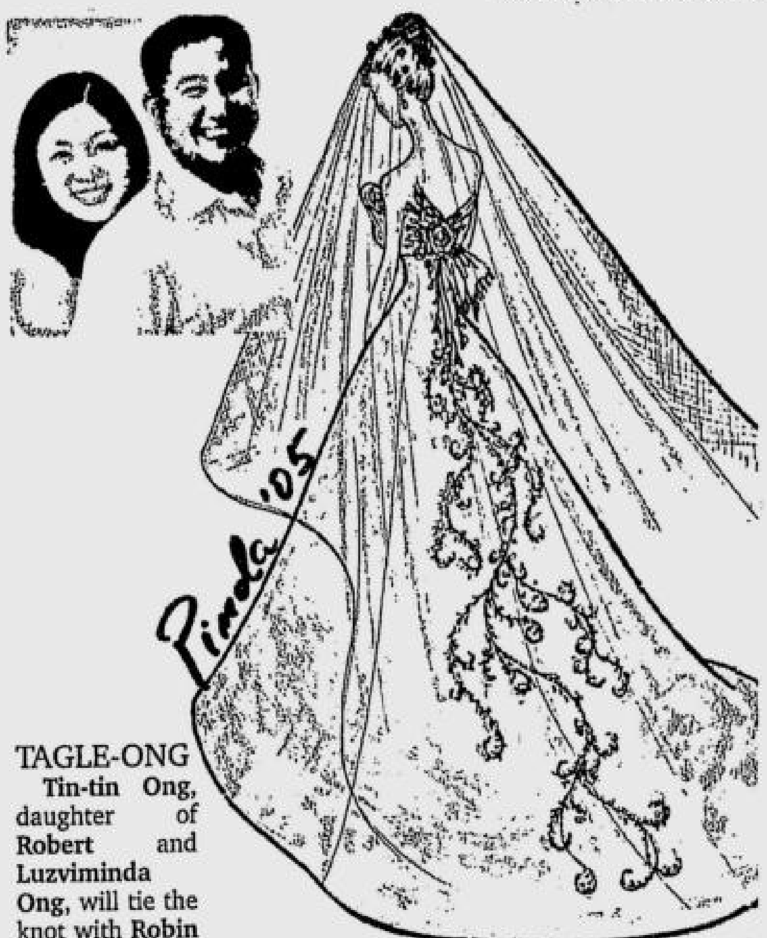
HEY, we are the gang. Carlo Tirona, Stevie Tambunting, Sigrid Villamil, Mahesh Mirpuri, Dondi and Sookie, Raymond Rufino, Anna Palabyab, Mike Huang, Kathy Tan, TJ Tan, Jet Suarez and Alexis Abastillas

INVITEES (seated) Consul Fortune Ledesma, Marilen Guisande, Baby Arenas, Linda Marquez; (standing) Consul Rene Ledesma, Dondi and Sookie, Rep. Rod and Chalie Valencia

HOTSHOTS. (Seated) Zeny Tanada, Bobby Tañada, Tong and Daisy Payumo, Tessie Daza, Judy Araneta-Roxas, Inday del Rosario; (standing) Yaying Dragon, Rodolfo del Rosario, the couple, and Rene Dragon

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



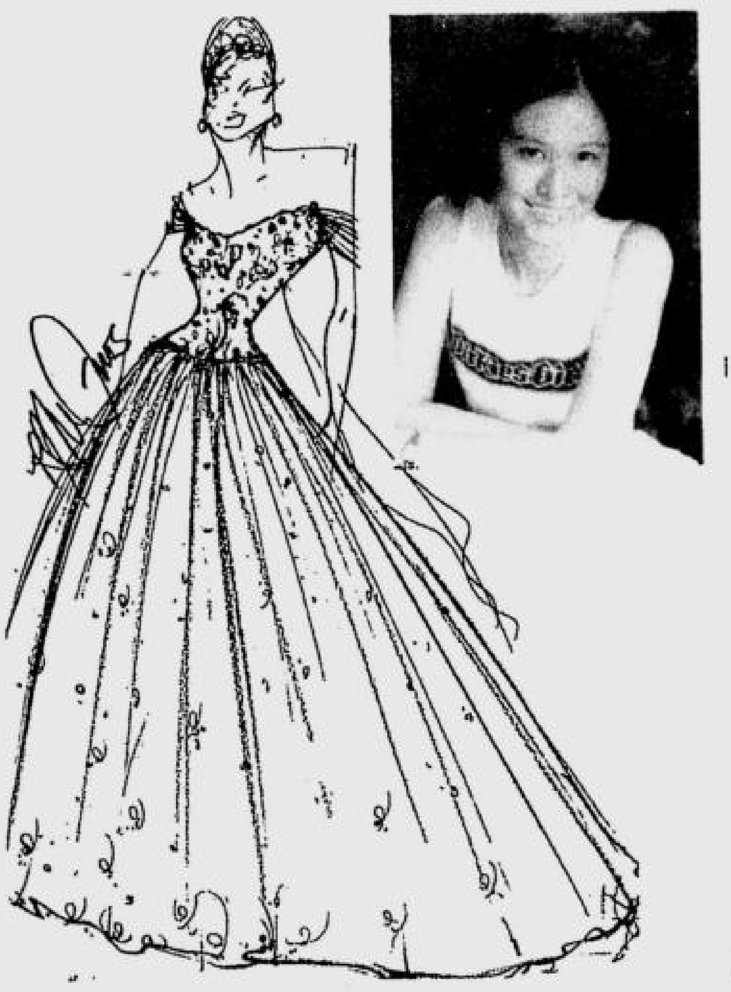
TAGLE-ONG

Tin-tin Ong, daughter of **Robert** and **Luzviminda Ong**, will tie the knot with **Robin Tagle**, son of **Celso Sr.** (deceased) and **Salud Tagle**, on April 1 at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown using ecru silk satin. The strapless bodice has an overlay of silk gazar embellished with handmade silk petals and Swarovski crystals. The princess-cut skirt extends to a chapel train traced with caviar beads, seed pearls and rhinestones in a vine-leaf pattern. A 10-meter veil of illusion tulle held by crystal pins complete the ensemble. Hair and makeup will be done by **Toto Bagamasbad**, and coordinator is **Rita Neri**. Reception will be at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila.

MORTOS-PANGILINAN

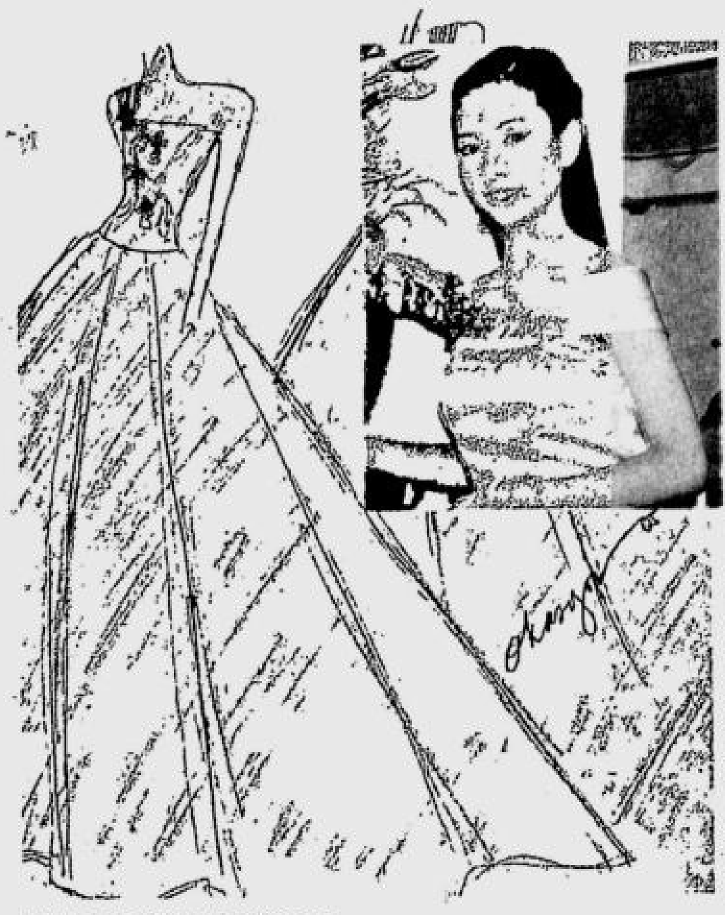
Orlando Mortos, son of **Rodolfo** and **Julia Mortos**, will exchange vows with **Aileen Pangilinan**, daughter of **Edgardo** and **Violeta Pangilinan**, on April 3 at the San Juan Nepomuceno Church, San Juan, Batangas.



DONES DEBUT

Aiza Marie Dones, a sophomore accountancy student at the De La Salle University in Dasmariñas, Cavite, will celebrate her 18th birthday today at Rio Delta Resort in Biwas, Tanza, Cavite.

Her gown was designed and executed by **Paul Rex Mateo** of the Wedding Day.

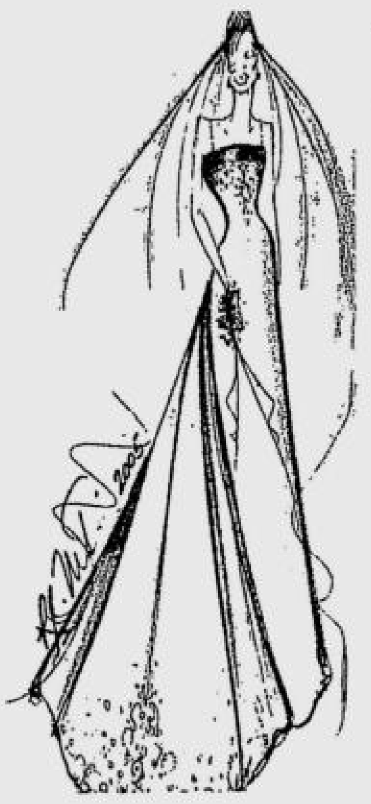


HERMOSURA DEBUT

Kalylle Darlaine Hermosura, daughter of **Bien** and **Mia Hermosura**, will celebrate her 18th birthday today at Parkside Clubhouse in Taytay, Rizal. She will wear a monochromatic red gown with embossed sequined flower accents made by Okasyon.

GAYAPA-LAURINO

Richel Gayapa, son of **Pablito** and **Erlinda Gayapa**, and **Mary Grace Laurino**, daughter of **Norberto** (deceased) and **Evangeline Laurino**, will exchange vows on April 16 at the Metropolitan Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Roxas City. Reception will follow at Nestas Garden Hall, Roxas City. **Rev. Fr. Joseph Cusay** will celebrate the Mass.



DENSLOW-REYNON

Robert Neil Denslow, son of **Douglas Frank Sydney** and **Margaret Anne**, will exchange vows with **Caroline Reynon**, daughter of **Antonio** and **Vicky Rernon** on April 2 at San Agustin Church. Reception will follow at Westin Philippine Plaza.

The gown of the bride was designed by **Paul Rex Mateo** of the Wedding Day.

FRANCISCO-MAGNO

Jocelynne Magno, daughter of **Edgardo** and **Rebecca Magno**, will wed **Louie Barley Francisco**, son of **Lucio** and **Elna Francisco**, on April 9 at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart. Reception will be held at Dusit Hotel in Makati.

TADENA-QUE

Christopher Tadena, son of **Jesus** and **Felicitas Tadena**, will marry **Karen Mabelle Que**, daughter of **Antonio** and **Lilia Que**, on April 8 at the Shrine of Jesus, The Way, The Truth and The Life, Reclamation Area, Pasay City.

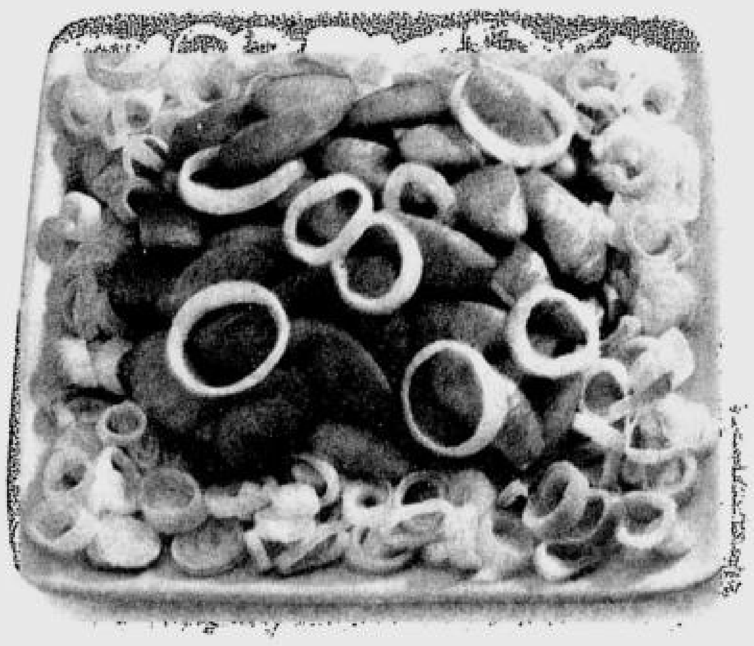
Reception will follow at the Coconut Palace, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

The bride will wear a bustier with semi-biased overlap skirt in ecru duchess satin with Swarovski crystals and beadwork in butterfly patterns by Bridal Touch Couture.

RICAFORT-VIDA

Reuel Alcala Ricafort, son of **Rogelio** (deceased) and **Viola Alcala Ricafort**, married **Rosanna Encarnacion Vida**, daughter of **Hernando Vallar Vida** and **Estrella Encarnacion Vida**, on March 19 at Portica de Gracia, Kawit, Cavite. Reception followed at the Pavilion.

Our hotdogs aren't manufactured.
They're hatched.



The Magnolia Chicken Hotdog.

The only one made from delicious Magnolia chicken meat,
it's a mouthwatering spin on the otherwise common hotdog.

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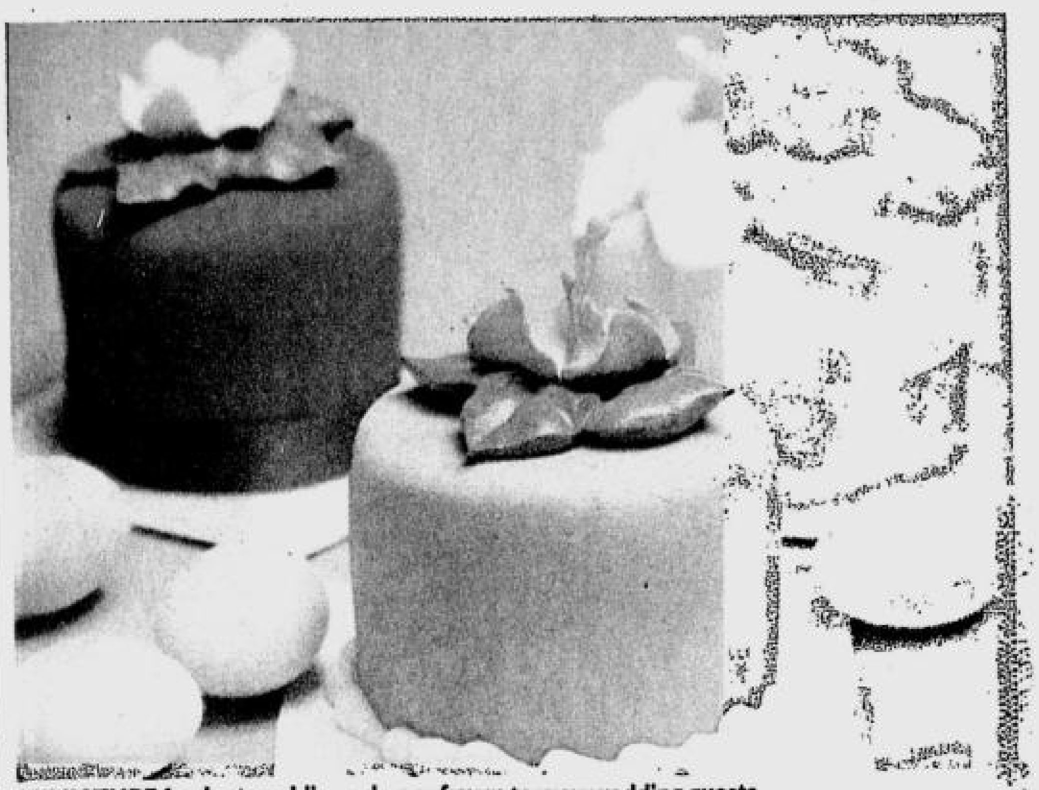


MINIATURE fondant wedding cakes as favors to your wedding guests

Have your cake and eat it, too, with these tips

FIND the perfect cake for your wedding or debut with the help of this checklist of what you need to know about cakes and how to order.

Start making an appointment with cake decorators not later than three months before the event. Decide on the basic cake shape you want, the type of flowers, the number of tiers and, of course, your budget before the meeting.

Bring samples of design. Take pictures of the cakes that you like, swatches of your dress fabric, and samples of your flowers so the cake decorator will have a better idea of the colors to be matched.

After choosing the overall design of your cake, decide on the flavor. You don't have to settle for the traditional fruitcake. Other alternatives include cheesecakes, carrot, pineapple, chocolate and others.

Find out the price of the cake. Price depends on many factors—the number of tiers, the number of sugar flowers, the cake size, etc.

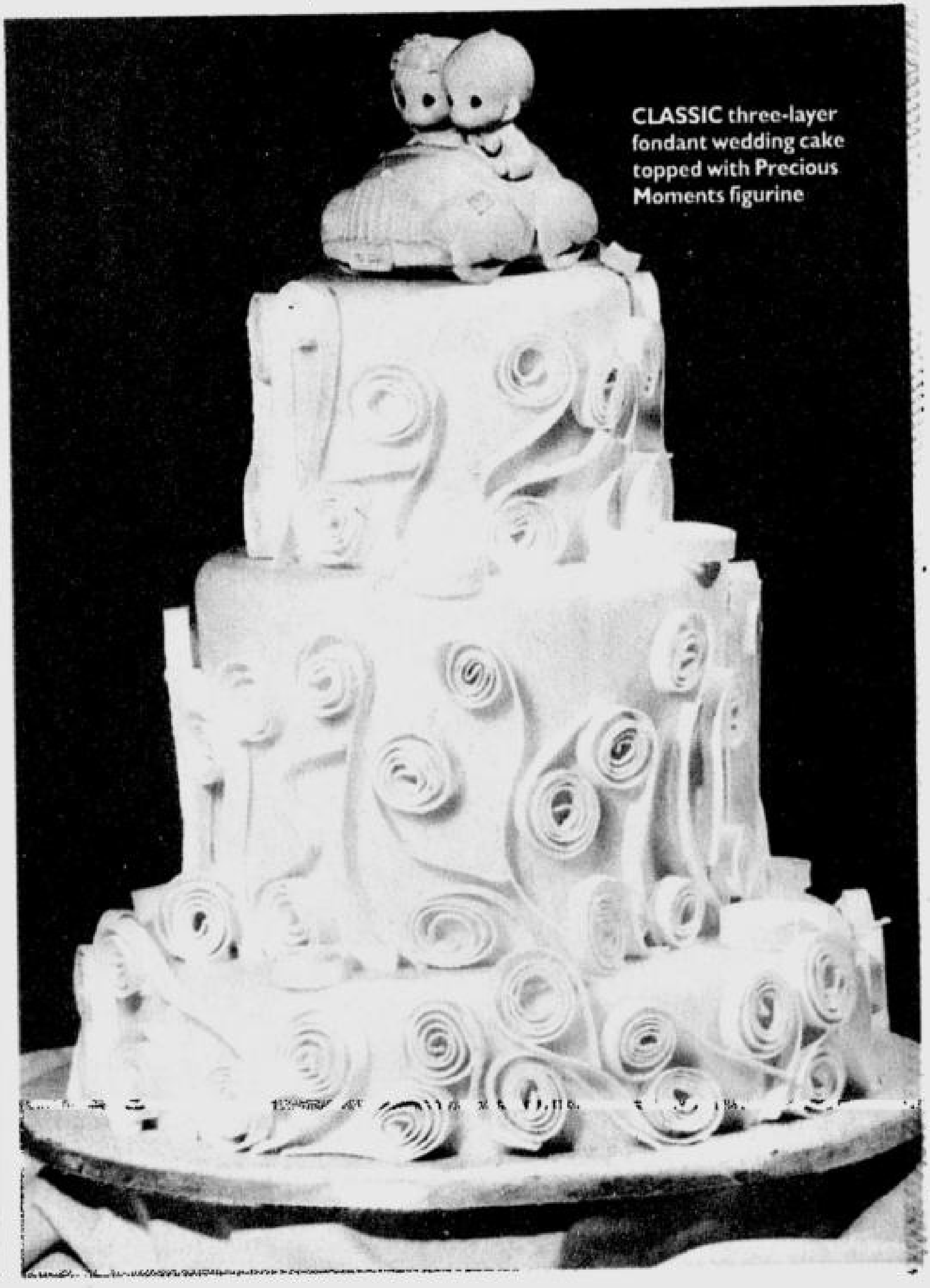
Order the cake after you have chosen the design and flavor and find the price acceptable. Cake decorators suggest the cake should be ordered at least six weeks before the event.

It is a standard practice to have a cake contract. Confirm the date, address and time of your reception well in advance of the wedding. The cake decorator will ask for half of the cost of the cake as deposit. Full payment is usually requested a week prior to the wedding.

If you need more help, ask Hearts and Bells. It offers birthday, wedding, debut and all-occasion cakes. You may choose from a wide range of cake flavors, such as apple walnut, carrot pineapple, Japanese cheesecake, Food for the Gods, chocolate cake with fudge icing and others.

Hearts and Bells is at 928 Alvarado St., Binondo, Manila, tel. 2440255 or 0917-5379388. You may also visit their showrooms at the Wedding Library, 2/F SM North Edsa or 5/F SM Megamall B.

THREE-LAYER pumpkin-shaped debutante's cake decorated with silver beads and burgundy colored sapphires



CLASSIC three-layer fondant wedding cake topped with Precious Moments figurine

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Love's song

THE NEWLYWEDS with their parents

WITH THE entourage

IT all started with a song.

Former television news reporter Camilla Kim was rehearsing a song for the Christmas concert of their church while Raul Galvez, a freelance training consultant, was practicing with the choir.

That was the first day Galvez joined the choir and the first time he heard her sing. For the first time, he was in love.

That musical meeting would eventually end in a beautiful garden wedding.

Kim walked down the aisle in a simple bias-cut silk and georgette gown while the University of the Philippines Singing Ambassadors sang "Ikaw."

Rose petals were scattered around the fountain and on the ground. A white carpet lined a flowered cobblestone pathway leading to a gazebo inspired by the façade of a castle in Versailles, France.

Fresh flowers were stringed together for the cord.

The groom and bride read their personal vows. During the ceremony, they also honored and thanked their parents. Almost everyone was in tears.

Butterflies were released from the cage when the priest told the groom, "You may kiss the bride."

Later in the reception, the newlyweds sang "God's Ways are Not Our Ways," the same song Galvez first heard his bride sing.

The reception hall and wedding area, as well as the flowers, were styled by Henry Pascual. The four-tiered garden-inspired cake was created by Alex Franco. All the gowns were made by the bride's aunt, Dee Klink, a fashion designer based in Florida.

Galvez is a magna cum laude graduate in psychology and Kim a broadcast communication graduate of UP Diliman.

The couple spent their honeymoon in Shangri-La Mactan, Cebu.

NEWLYWEDS Camilla (nee Kim) and Raul Galvez

WITH FRIENDS from ABS-CBN, ABC5 and Studio 23

THE UP Singing Ambassadors perform at the ceremony.

THE COUPLE are showered with petals.

THE CAKE by Alex Franco

Feel free to stack them in your freezer.
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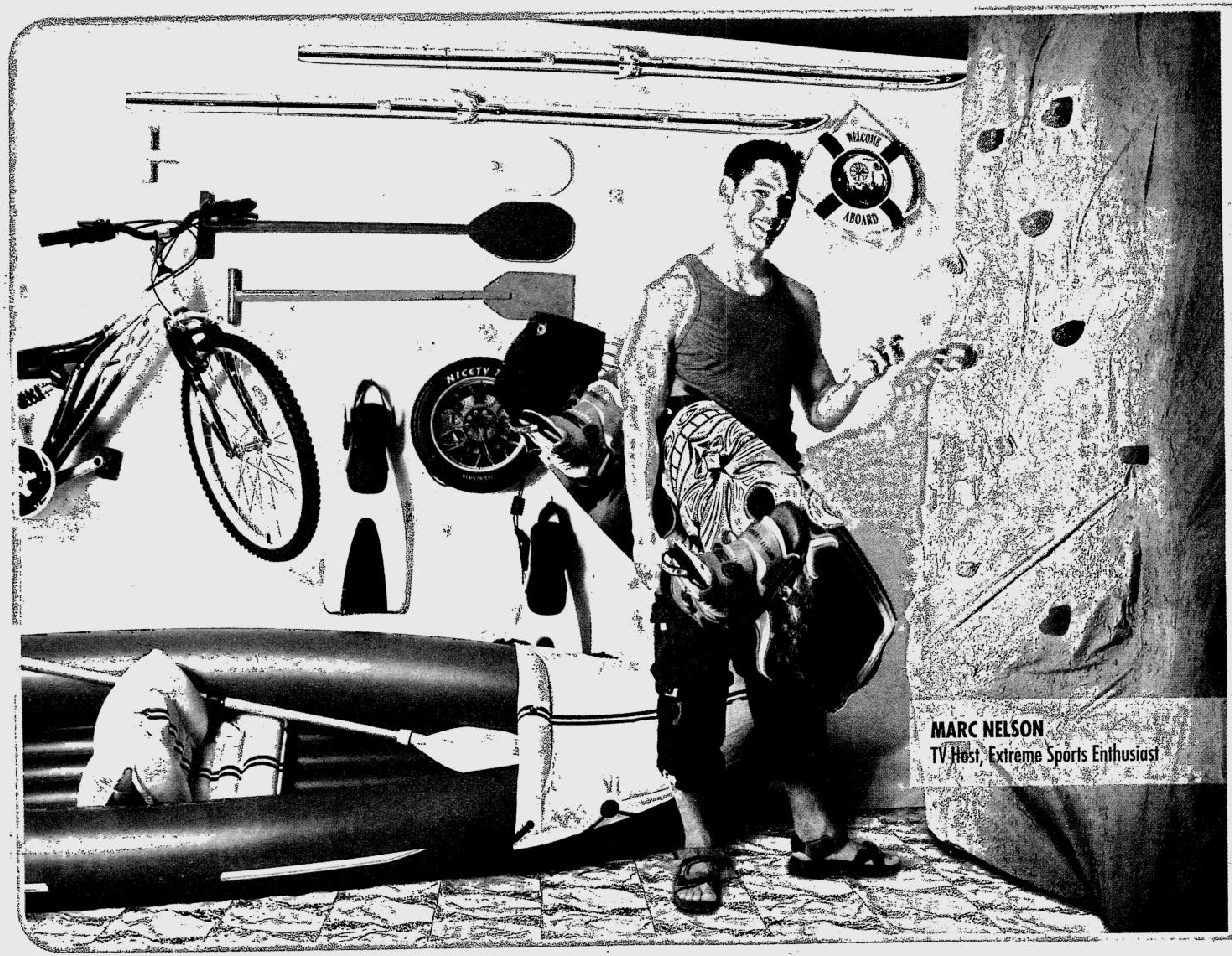

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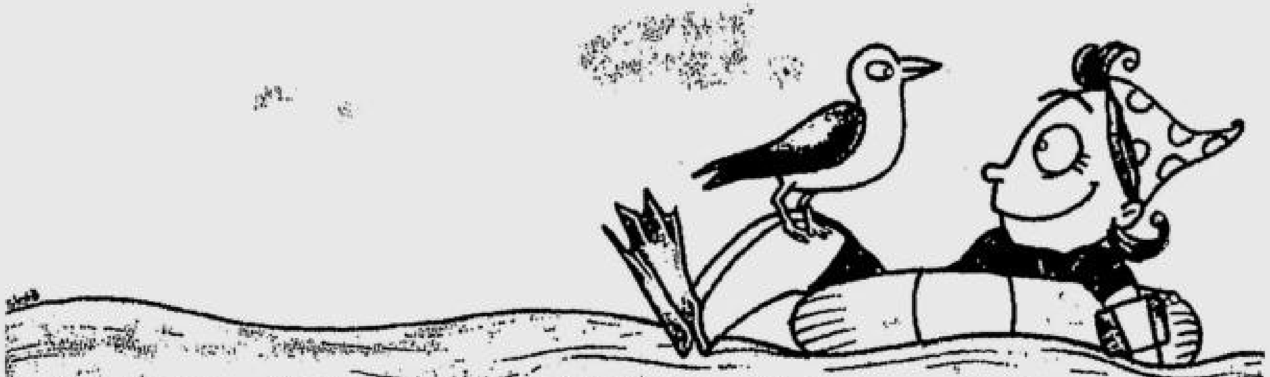
PWU graduates wear the terno /H2



Like sewing, fashion designing and dancing, she couldn't attempt the waters until she came to terms with herself

Swimming

By Gilda Cordero Fernando

SWIMMING wasn't something I learned to do until I was 40. My butt was large and solid and whenever I attempted the waters, I sank like a stone. Somehow, in my middle years, I just couldn't get into the swim of things.

When I was a teenager, fair complexion was "in." We *indios* really had a difficult time. I was advised to use a bleaching cream, to wear long sleeves and to open an umbrella the moment I stepped outside. Furthermore, bathing suits were for Esther Williams figures (she the aqua-ballet star), not for flatties like me. My *colegiala* friends and I did, of course, enroll in swimming classes. But we just huddled together near the gutter, talking about boys, and so we never learned. (We didn't get sunburned either.)

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Came the time when my children were swimming like sardines in the sea. Their father insisted that we go to the beach every weekend. It alarmed me that my little girl was slowly roasting a chocolate brown just like the boys. (Would someone marry her?) Unhappily, with tire interior around my waist and a wide *buntal* hat on my head, I would wade to the middle to the thigh-deep water and just sit. In all our snapshots at the beach, I am wearing the same mousy brown swimsuit and half-hiding behind someone else's slimmer body.

Then one day, during a summer in Matabungkay, Baby Roces' two little girls in snorkels beckoned me excitedly to look at some blue and gold striped fish underwater. I was mortified. The water was only waist deep, but I did not know how to swim. And how could I see those wonderful fish when I couldn't even put my face in the water?

Different strokes

But I so wanted to see them. I wanted to see the beautiful fish and finally learn how to swim in the vast ocean all by myself. The week after, I enrolled in the PE swimming class at the University of the Philippines. Twice a week thereafter, wearing the regulation black swimsuit and cap, I thrashed with 40 freshmen girls in the shallow, non-threatening Olympic-length swimming pool. Our tomboyish instructor, Miss Violanda, used a whistle and brooked no sissies. After a while, we learned how to freestyle and breast- and butterfly-stroke. After class, I would remain behind in the pool, lying on my back, gazing at the sky, paddling contentedly about until they shooed me away.

The finals consisted of treading and diving into the dark, deep end of the pool. Those who panicked (what humiliation!) had to be fished out with a long bamboo pole by the lifeguard. Heart pounding, I closed my eyes and dived—a deep dive, and surfaced, alive! I needed no bamboo pole, no water wings or rubber tires. Henceforth, I would survive!

Often, I have wondered why it took me so many fearful years to decide I was ready to swim. And I believe it was because my swimming truly paralleled the stage I was inside.

Heirloom scissors

Why did I also suddenly develop an interest in sewing? So late in life! Never before had I felt the least desire to sew anything, not even when I was growing up in a house whose dining table was forever plastered with my mama's brown paper patterns, littered with lacquer sewing boxes and fruit-shaped pin cushions. To sew, one has to have the quality of patience. I was a doer, I claimed. I was restless. I wanted lightning results. I wasn't about to dilly-dally over a fine seam.

Through the years though, I must have acquired the virtue. One day, my sister and I decided to decongest my departed mother's abandoned closets. We drew lots for crocheted bedspreads, embroidered tablecloths and pillowcases, canes and flutes, glass compotes and silverware. One pair of large dressmaker's shears surfaced from the camphor chest—it had magnetic blades that picked up lost pins. The scissors' lot fell to me. I was ready to sew, I was provided the tool.

Earlier, too, I felt that I had no fashion sense. My clothes were made of gift cloths which were seldom what I wanted—sometimes too airy-fairy (pink and fine printed) for me, sometimes too bold (fuchsia and company). Prêt-à-porter was just too conventional, too behaved and à la mode for me to relate to. I knew what I didn't like, but how could I know what I liked when I didn't quite know who I was?

Art pieces

But I now had a tool—my scissors. Those were days of discovery. Though my sewing was poor, I could collage and had good color sense. So collage and layout I did (just like laying out a book), using old cloths—pieces of my father's printed bathrobe, his discarded silk pajamas, my mother's apple green cheongsam, 1920s cocktail dresses, shawls and petticoats, my sister's debut gown.

Then I discovered a chest of old *saya* and went wild. I was creating new fabric out of old material. Ida Bugayong called them "art pieces"; Bumbee Ramos called them "industrial work." With such original material, there was no special dress styling necessary. It was sufficient to just stick the two squares together, you'd still be the walking art piece of the town.

By Christmas I had finished seven blouses for all the females in the family—Lanelle, Bing-Bing, Lilli-Ann, Wendy, my sister Tess, and my granddaughters Mahal and Chin-Chin. The kids wore theirs to shreds.

I still don't know if I've developed a fashion sense. But I do know the kind of clothes I like to wear. And I stick to my guns.

Then suddenly, last summer, my friend Mary Joan Fajardo and I decided to remove the paintings from the wall of my study, push back the chairs and table and acquire a wide, full-length mirror. For we suddenly had a deep desire to dance. Riza Regis had invited us a few times to an hour of "free movement" in her carpeted meditation center, but that was not enough. I wanted to choreograph the number whirling about like a dervish in my head and giggling maids be damned.

Dancing, after all, expresses the joy of coming to terms with oneself. One dances because there is something to dance about, just as one swims when one is ready to explore the world.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1373, Series of 2005

PHILIPPINE Women's University-Manila's High School graduating class of 2005 with the faculty during their March 16 graduation at Philamlife Theater. Graduates of PWU's Davao campus also carry on the terno tradition, and it is hoped the Quezon City campus will follow suit in the near future.

Terno in, toga out

By Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Ryan Lim

ISABEL Benitez is giggling in excitement. In a few days, she will graduate from high school. She plans to take up broadcast communications, she says, and she has already picked a university in Quezon City.

Amid her excitement, the young woman is also eagerly anticipating her attire for graduation day. She, like the 53 other girls in her graduating class, will be donning Philippine Women's University's traditional gala terno.

"I have nothing against the toga," says Benitez of the conventional graduation robe. "But there's something about our gala terno that feels very pure."

For 85 years, PWU's high-school department has been breaking graduation-day mold by requiring its female graduates to wear the national costume for the school's commencement exercises.

The resplendent white dress sports the butterfly sleeves, and embroidered on the bodice with a maroon ribbon and a white *sampaguita* pattern. The same embroidery is repeated on the sleeves. Maroon and white are PWU's colors.

BATCH 2005, pretty and regal in their gala terno

CLASS of '67 wear their terno with the *panuelo* to the prom

Cultural heritage

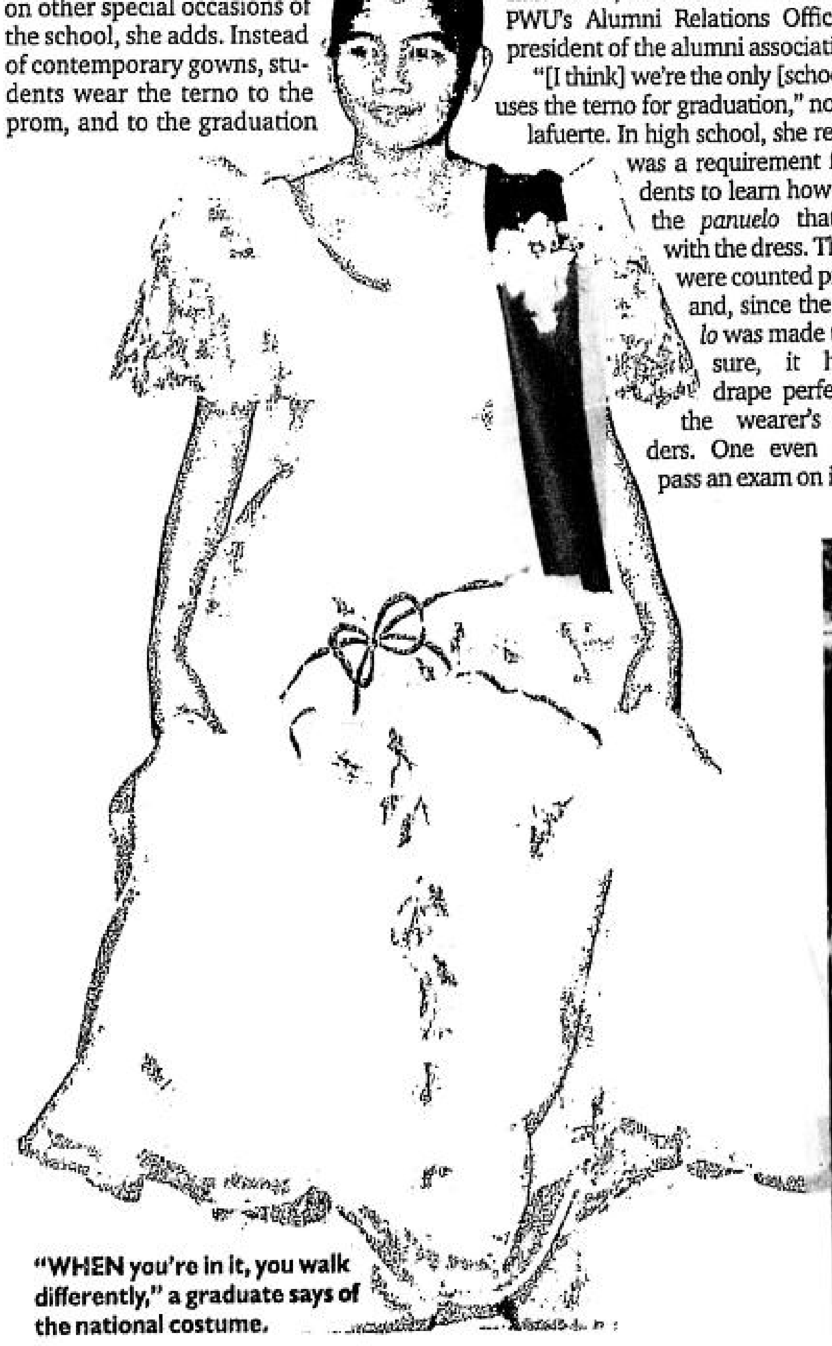
"This is PWU's cultural heritage," says Luz Fajardo, PWU-Manila's high school principal. "It is our tradition to help preserve whatever is Filipino."

The gala terno is worn not only on graduation, but also on other special occasions of the school, she adds. Instead of contemporary gowns, students wear the terno to the prom, and to the graduation cotillion and *rigodon de honor* with their parents. It is also the official costume of the high-school glee club.

"It is a beautiful representation of our school that, I feel, needs to be carried on," says Olivia Celeste Montecillo Villafuerte.

A member of high-school graduating class of '61, Villafuerte is the director of PWU's Alumni Relations Office, and president of the alumni association.

"[I think] we're the only [school] that uses the terno for graduation," notes Villafuerte. In high school, she recalls, it was a requirement for students to learn how to fold the *panuelo* that went with the dress. The folds were counted precisely and, since the *panuelo* was made to measure, it had to drape perfectly on the wearer's shoulders. One even had to pass an exam on it!



"WHEN you're in it, you walk differently," a graduate says of the national costume.

For 85 years, PWU's female high-school graduates have worn the national dress to their commencement exercises

Fajardo, who didn't attend PWU high school but earned her degree from the same university, says *panuelo*-folding was also requisite in college in her time.

Some 18 years ago, however, the school replaced the traditional *panuelo* with the *alampay*. According to Fajardo, the material of the *panuelo*, which was imported from Hong Kong, had become too expensive for the students. The school's board decided to replace it with the simpler and cheaper, if equally very Filipino, *alampay* in maroon color.

Though the school maintained the original look of its ceremonial costume, the *panuelo* wasn't the only thing to go due to rising cost of materials. Fajardo explains that originally the terno was made of *piña* and *jusi*. Now it's made of organza.

Loose change

Nene Chua, who, with sister Linda, has taken over the task of producing the ternos for PWU from her mother, Belen Farrales, recalls that the entire dress cost P80 during her mother's time—loose change compared to its current price of P3,500.

This is why some of the students opt to borrow from previous graduates or rent from the school. For class 2005, Chua says only 35 of the 65 graduates (nine are males) ordered new ternos.

Even then, Villafuerte says wearing the terno "makes you feel special because it's not for everyday use. It's more regal. It alters you. When you're in it, you walk differently."

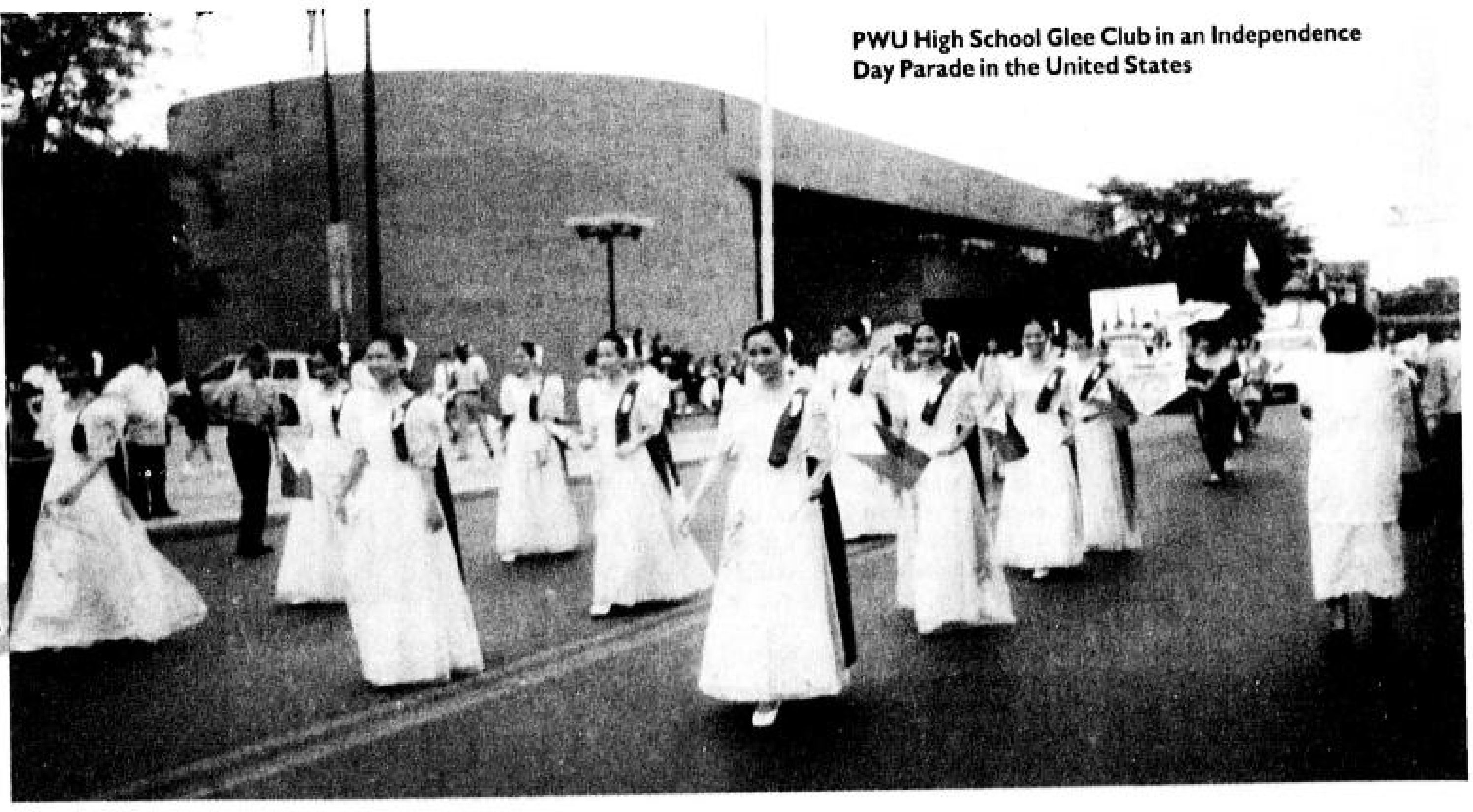
Accompanying the glee club to the United States, Villafuerte says her heart swelled with pride every time Filipinos and even Americans would walk up to the young women and compliment them on their costume.

"[The girls] joined the Independence Day Parade in San Francisco and I was so thrilled because people were cheering them on. Our alumni know it's PWU right away when they see the gala terno."

Through the years, the skirt length of the school uniform had changed following fashions, but, in her many years as principal, Fajardo says she has yet to see the day when students or parents propose to change the terno tradition. Not even for the prom, she stresses.

"There are other places for change, and the gala terno is not one of them," opines Villafuerte. "You can wear a [contemporary] gown anywhere else. This (terno tradition) is something you pass on."

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph



PWU High School Glee Club in an Independence Day Parade in the United States

Still Our Hero

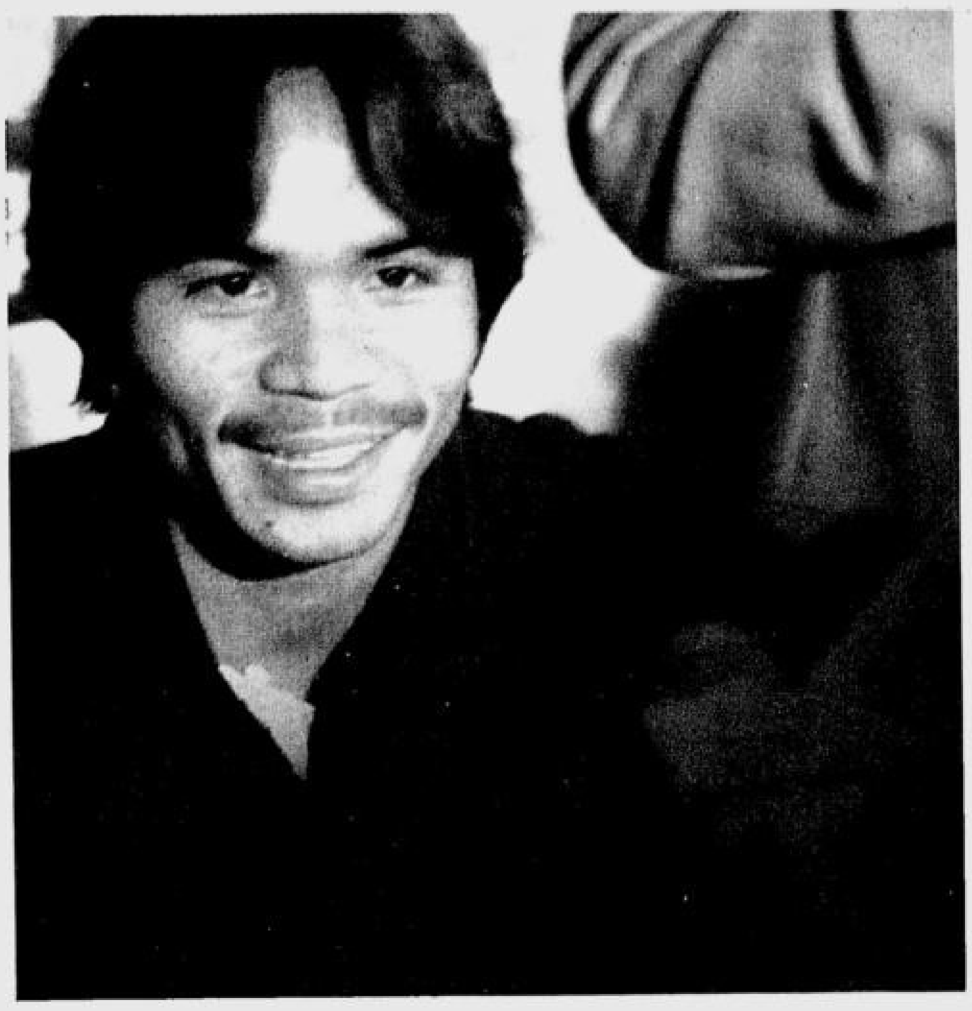
SMART Welcomes Manny Pacquiao Home

The fight was a lot bloodier than expected. Manny Pacquiao, the pride of General Santos City, was bleeding profusely from a cut above his right eye. It was the result of an accidental headbutt from his opponent, Erik "El Teribie" Morales in the 4th round. Despite basically fighting with just one eye for eight more rounds, Manny stayed on his feet, refusing to be cowed by the taller, more experienced Mexican. In a fight that had no titles at stake, Manny quite possibly showed more heart than ever.

Sponsored by SMART Padala, SMART Buddy, and Talk 'N Text, the match dubbed "Coming with Everything" went beyond the hype leading up to that fateful Las Vegas night. Two gladiators. One from Tijuana, Mexico, the other from General Santos, the Philippines. One ring to determine who was the better fighter. Beyond the issues over changing management teams, boxing glove contracts, and eye drops, this was a match to show to the world how one Filipino could unify a nation.

For a few hours on Sunday, March 20th, Manny "The Pacman" did what nobody thought possible: he united the Philippines, gaining strength from the millions of countrymen who chanted his name and cheered his every move. Despite being the shorter of the two, and despite being thousands of miles from home, it seemed that Pacquiao became the living embodiment of the Filipino's determination and strength. He would not bow before Morales, and he would use his fists to send a defiant message to his critics.

Mabuhay ka Manny Pacquiao!



Though Manny lost the decision, he can still hold his head high. This was a moral victory, something which even the Mexican boxing fans applauded. Ring Magazine's "People's Champion" had indeed become that. SMART welcomes our hero home. He gave all his blood, sweat, tears, and even his eyesight, for national pride. In SMART's eyes, and in the eyes of every Filipino worldwide, Manny remains a champion through and through. Mabuhay ka Manny Pacquiao!

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Fashionably mobile

MODELS, set designs and other important images are captured and easily stored on Joey Espino's Sony Ericsson P910i. With a megapixel camera and crystal-clear color screen, he effectively utilizes his mobile phone for easy photo printing and quick sharing.

Joey Espino organizes this year's Philippine Fashion Week through his 'mobile office'

DESPITE long hours and tedious work, days flit by fast for fashion maverick Joey Espino, executive producer and director of the Philippine Fashion Week.

As the countdown begins on this most-awaited spectacle, all eyes are on Espino. Fashion denizens look forward to what he will conjure in this year's event when it opens tomorrow at the Ayala Museum.

Now on its eighth year, the Fashion Week has evolved into a major fashion and design event that dictates the trends and tastes of style-conscious Filipinos and the fashion market at large. This year, 88 couturiers will unveil their latest collections.

The show's influence has also extended from garments and fabrics to hairstyle and color, makeup, personal electronics, furnishing and even mobile technology.

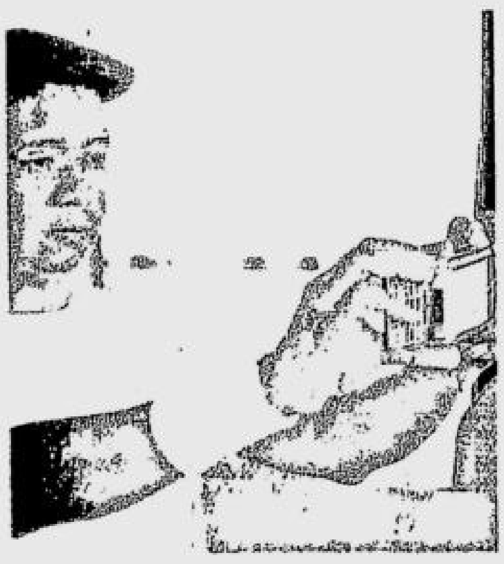
Meanwhile, Espino conducts all the demanding preparations for the event through his "mobile office": His Sony Ericsson P910i.

"The work mode now is on a 24/7 timetable," said Espino. "The event has gone way beyond fashion. It's really a lifestyle show with all the components that make for fashion, design and technology that will respond to the more demanding needs of discriminating consumers in 2005."

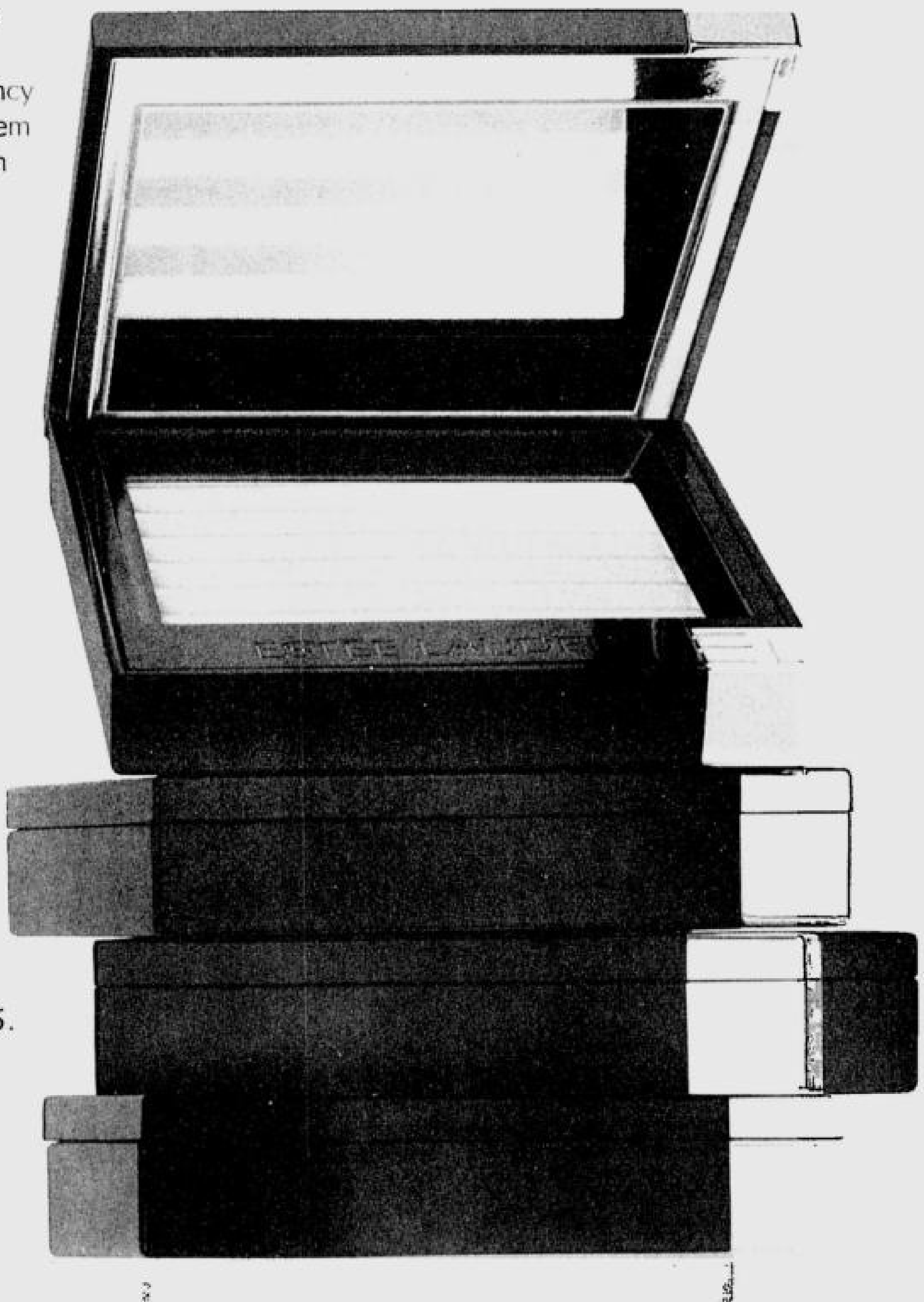
Espino's workday has become an example of lifestyle savvy and innovation. With his mobile phone, he keeps tab of all his schedules and appointments, and even gets to check his e-mail even while on the road. Models, sets and other images are captured by its integrated camera and stored internally for easy printing or quick sharing. Often, he stores video of rehearsals for future reference and downloads music in the phone's MP3 system so that he can study them whenever and wherever he wants. Of course, he also heavily relies on it for crisp and clear communication.

"The less you have on your hands, the more mobile and functional you can be," Espino said.

Sony Ericsson has been the principal sponsor of the Philippine Fashion Week for the last three years. "I think Sony Ericsson shares the same vision: making life easier and making communication a way of life. It's about modern living in step with what 2005 requires from us—to have a more sophisticated, more functional, clearer, faster and more enjoyable way of life."



MOUNTING Fashion Week with a single device. Philippine Fashion Week executive producer and director Espino's workday has become an example of lifestyle savvy and innovation. Having a million and one things to do doesn't stop Joey from meeting the demands of putting up the country's premiere fashion and lifestyle event with the help, of course, of his "mobile office," the Sony Ericsson P910i.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1605, Series of 2005.

SPORTY couple Dodot and Mikee Jaworski

ELIGIBLE executives Paolo Prieto and Tom Valderrama

HELLO Kitty queen Virgie Ramos and golden girl Girlie Rodis

RACHEL Alejandro and sister, chef Barnie

COOL dad Dante Silverio and Kit Zobel

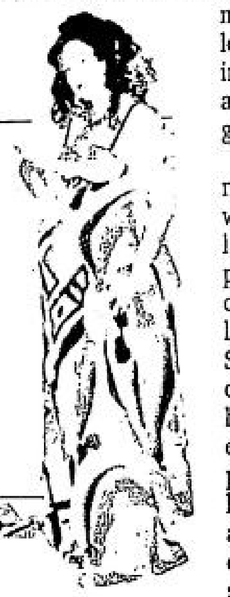
PHILIPPINE Tatler Society editor Anton San Diego and Irene Francisco

Celebrating the little resurrections of every day

DURING Lent, which gloriously ends today with Easter Sunday, I normally make a sacrifice like giving up sweets or chocolate or most difficult, shopping! This year, though, I was exempted from fasting because I am pregnant, so I did indulge myself at first until I was put on a strict diet by my doctor, **Nabbie Aherrera.**

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes



The year I sacrificed by not shopping, I saved a lot of money. But I was totally miserable. My shopping habits are normally buying things for other people, like my friends or my kids or my siblings. I like to hoard stuff, thinking I might run out of stock. Sometimes I buy things because they are on sale or I have a discount card. This is a habit I share with other Pinoy shopaholics, as we all suffer from shopping madness in varying degrees of intensity.

Two of my friends have mothers who sacrifice by not wearing or buying jewelry during Lent. I might try a version of that next year, giving up my accessories and wigs, since I don't have much real jewelry to give up wearing anyway. Lent without wigs would be a really painful sacrifice for me.

At a recent dinner at INQUIRER Super! **Tim Yap's** new venture, Embassy, my husband, **Dennis**, and I were in a discussion about Easter with his Kellogg MBA friend, **Jovi Zalamea**, who is an evangelical Christian. I asked if evangelical Christians observe Lent and what happens on Easter Sunday. Since they believe in the teachings of the Bible, he told me that they celebrate Easter, though for him every day is a celebration with God.

Close to home

We concluded that whatever religion one may practice, doing good and being generous is the proper way to live. Just as important is the celebration of life. Today, on ABS-CBN's "Rated K," brilliant host **Korina Sanchez** interviews Dennis about his helicopter crash. The entire episode is about celebrations. There are lots of tales of the city but when an accident like this happens close to home, you can't help but feel so grateful and blessed.

Since I have had an outrageous transformation—after my brother passed away more than 10 years ago—Korina asked what would happen now with this incident involving Dennis? Would Dennis start dressing as flamboyantly as I? Horrors, would he be competing for access to my wig supply? Any possible transformation will have to wait for several months because he still has to wear this metal brace to support his back.

The fortunate side is that he is mobile and without any surgery at all. He has been going to work and attending selected social affairs with me.

First was the weekend-long birthday party of Famous PR giant **Keren Pascual**, who started his natal-day festivities with an Adidas-Keren badminton tournament at Manila Polo Club. Since both Dennis and I are in no position to play, we joined Keren at his evening events in Circle Café and Red restaurant at Makati Shangri-La.

That evening, my most famous show-biz buddy, **Kris Aquino**, joined us straight from her Star Awards night. Though she didn't win the Best Actress award for her role in "Feng Shui," she looked so radiant and was her usual bubbly self. I thought she acted really well and was deserving of that award, but I guess it was not meant for her this year.

Dennis joined Keren the next day at Red where there were even more show-biz personalities, most of them veterans of the Star Cruises that Keren organizes. One of them is amiable, show-biz guru **Dolphy**, who is so wonderful to chat with, especially with his many stories on life and love. He has been in the industry like forever and is really a kind and good person.

The next affair Dennis attended with me was the successful launching of the Philippine Tatler's annual Society Magazine at the lobby of the Makati Shang. It seems that Society and Dennis both had a big coming-out event that night. A lot of people had not seen him since his accident and the brace did stick out as an unusual accessory!

Flamenco guys

Editor **Anton San Diego** got the lobby filled with notable personalities, all of whom were entertained with an explosive Flamenco dance number by two Spanish brothers, **Isaac** and **Nino de los Reyes**. They are the gorgeous sons of **Clara Ramona**, who teaches at Fundacion Centro Flamenco. They were so impressive they were asked to do an encore, which they did with their mother. Too bad the boys were off the next day—back to Spain—but they promised to be back to teach me some flamenco moves, hopefully to help me shed some post-pregnancy fat that may still be inhabiting my body after I give birth in May.

Before heading home that evening, we passed by Milky Way to greet Golden Girl PR **Girlie Rodis**, who was celebrating early because she would be in Europe on her real birthday. She was going to let this birthday pass by without a party, but a friend told her that this was too important to miss. And indeed it is!

Bonding as a couple for 25 years is a monumental achievement worth celebrating in style. The most amazing relationship of **Ricky Toledo** and **Chito Vijandre** of Firma Greenbelt has lasted that long and is still in full throttle. This most stylish couple has weathered it through their artistic peaks and temperamental valleys. Congrats, you two!

Another milestone in the food retail industry is the 30th anniversary of Shakey's in the Philippines. By coincidence, that is also the number of years I have been a pizza addict, what with their famous thin-crust and some of the more delicious but fattening ingredients on top. Golden Pizza had a big celebration at the Cowboy Grill Mabini. Unfortunately I could not make it because that was the day we taped our Korina interview. But that day, I remembered to order my favorite Shakey's anchovies and shrimp, thin-crust pizza.

Life is a gift that needs to be celebrated daily, whether we applaud a miraculous helicopter crash recovery, the launch of a new magazine, a 50th birthday, a 30th anniversary... or the risen Christ! And with each day, a thankful prayer should be said for the wonderful gift of life. Happy Easter!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

CLOSE friends Rajo Laurel, Kris Aquino, birthday boy Keren Pascual and Ben Chan

Life's everyday little blessings are also Easter graces

"RATED K" host Korina Sanchez with heli crash survivor Dennis Valdes

FLAMENCO dancing at the Philippine Tatler Society launch

ELEGANT guests HSBC CEO Warner Manning and wife Julie, with Amparito and Michel Lhuillier

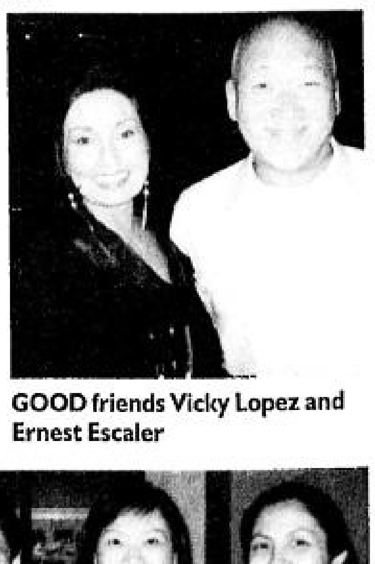
INQUIRER's society columnist Maurice Arcache, Kim Camacho and Teyet Pascual

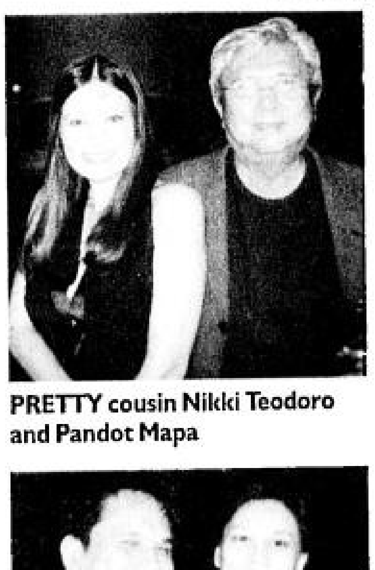
CEO and publisher Dr. Boya Mohindar, Warner Manning, Lina Ross and Lynn Palma

URBAN Spa friends Anne Sytin, Crickette Tantoco and Irene Ibanez

DYNAMIC couple Millet and Robert Mananquil

BADMINTON belles Bubbles Paraiso, Luz Siguion-Reyna, Carol Francisco and Phoemela Barranda


GOOD friends Vicky Lopez and Ernest Escaler


PRETTY cousin Nikki Teodoro and Pandot Mapa

HOT couple Tong and Wendy Hotung

BOHEMIAN style maven Astrud Crisologo flanked by Firma Makati's Chito Vijandre and Ricky Toledo

FLAMENCO teacher Clara Ramona with sons Nino and Isaac de los Reyes

GIFT Gate girl Shey Bolano, Sheila Ramos and Gila Garcia

SOUNDS expert Elbert and Liza Cuenca

RETAIL business giants Nene and Virgilio Lim

CITIBANK Paylite offers 0-percent interest on bookings at El Nido Miniloc Island Resort in Palawan. Offer good until April 30, except on March 21-27.

Premium treats at 0-percent interest

ENJOY special discounts and exciting treats when you avail of items at 0-percent interest through the Citibank PayLite Installment Plan at select merchants.

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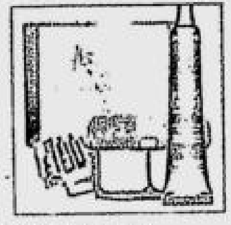
Technophiles can drop by AV Surfer Alabang, Cebu, Cubao, Metro East, Imus, Galleria and Metro East Pampanga, and receive a P500 gift certificate upon purchase of an iPod Mini. Or, buy a Samsung SC-D103 Camcorder and get a free bag and tripod. This offer is valid until May 15.

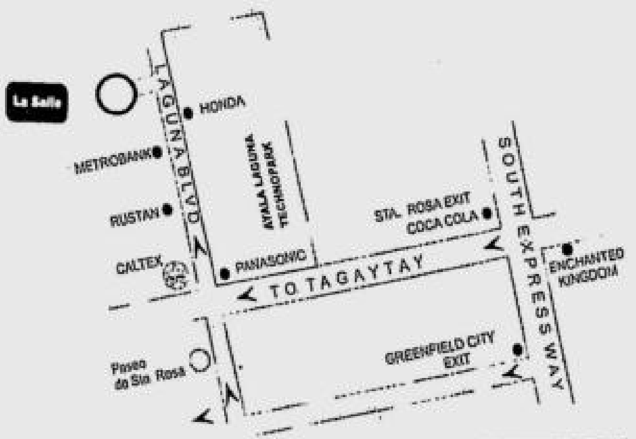
Citibank also lets you get more from a great summer vacation at less cost. Hie off to El Nido Miniloc Island Resort in Palawan and enjoy 0-percent interest on your booking until April 30 (except from March 21-27). Call 8945644 for details about this particular offer.

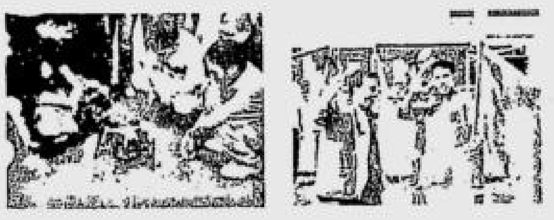
PayLite is exclusive to all Citibank cardholders and does not require pre-enrollment. Just visit any of the participating establishments and PayLite your purchases worth at least P3,000. You can pay for these purchases in longer and lighter payment terms of three, six, nine, 12, 18 or 24 monthly installments.

Call 9959999 or visit www.citibank.com.ph.



ENJOY free gift items at Lancôme in Rustan's with single receipt purchases of P10,000 and P15,000 using Citibank PayLite.





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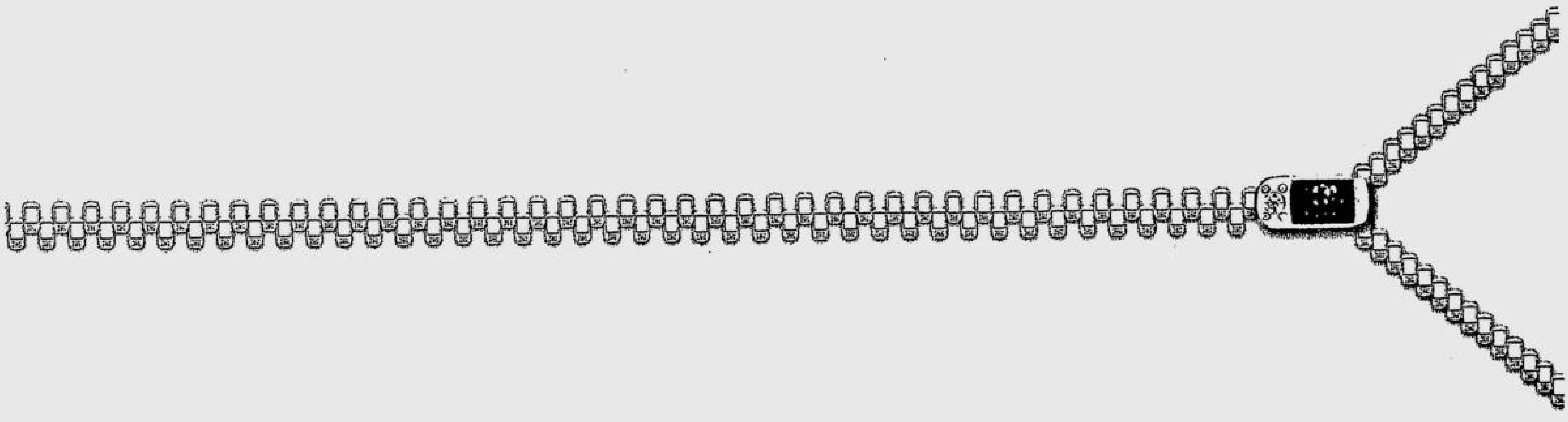

Sony Ericsson

Open up a great fashion experience with Sony Ericsson. Enjoy fashion perks when you flash your Sony Ericsson mobile phone in Culte Femme, Folded & Hung, Guess and Memo. Promo starts on Fashion Week, March 28, and ends April 30, 2005.

See tentcards for complete promo details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1470 Series of 2005.

culte femme
FH | folded&hung
GUESS BY MARCIANO
clothes that work.

Fashion spectacle this summer

GLOBE Platinum is joining Stores Specialists Inc. to present "Colors and Tunes of Summer," a Salvatore Ferragamo fashion gala.

The event will be held April at The Westin Philippine Plaza's Harbour Garden. James Ferragamo of the Italian fashion house will attend the first full Philippine gala presentation of Salvatore Ferragamo in five years.

"As one of the most prestigious brands available in the country today, Salvatore Ferragamo continues to pursue only the best in fashion and lifestyle. This endeavor reinforces that commitment by showcasing fashion and accessories that are fresh yet classic, characteristics that set Salvatore Ferragamo's aesthetic above the rest," explained Stores Specialists executive vice president Anton Huang, local distributor of the luxury fashion label. "And we are overjoyed to have Globe Platinum as a partner in bringing this vision into reality."

Globe Platinum marketing manager Kristelle Dizon said both Stores Specialists and Salvatore Ferragamo are perfect partners for Globe Platinum. "Both are devoted to offering only the best products and services. We enthusiastically look forward to this successful venture," she said.

The collection will feature nature-inspired pieces from Salvatore Ferragamo's spring/summer 2005 collection, with music by the Makiling Ensemble.

Proceeds will go to the Philippine Italian Association Endowment Fund, which oversees various cultural programs.

GLOBE Platinum head Mayette Siasoco

our W r Lifest
GLOBE Platinum senior marketing manager Kristelle Dizon

STORES Specialists Inc. EVP Anton Huang

A WESTIN HOPPENING
Not Your Ordinary Easter Egghunt

Check in at The Westin Philippine Plaza between now and March 26 and get free Easter Sunday tickets at the Sunset Pavilion. Hop along in your favorite costume and get a chance to win special prizes.

PRESENTED BY: Jif

Easter Room Rates
March 17-24 P4,700 - Superior / P5,700 - Deluxe
March 25 & 26 P6,700 to P8,500 - Westin Executive Club
Free tickets for 1 adult and 2 kids to the Easter event

Café Plaza Scrumptious Easter Brunch Buffet
Adults: P1,500++ 6-12 yrs. old: P750++ 5 yrs. old and below: FREE
FREE Easter tickets for every brunch buffet

March 27, Easter Sunday
8:30am Easter Sunday Mass at the Davao Room
9:00am – 3:00pm Registration
Easter Egg Hunts at the Westin Garden
Games and Activities at the Sunset Pavilion:
Bratz Kiddie Hair Salon, Zoids Blox Building Contest, K'nex Building Contest, RC Racing Contest by Road Rats, TV Games Plug It In & Play, Arts and Crafts, and All-Day Kiddie Cartoons
3:00pm – 4:00pm Parade and Awarding of Costume Contest Winners
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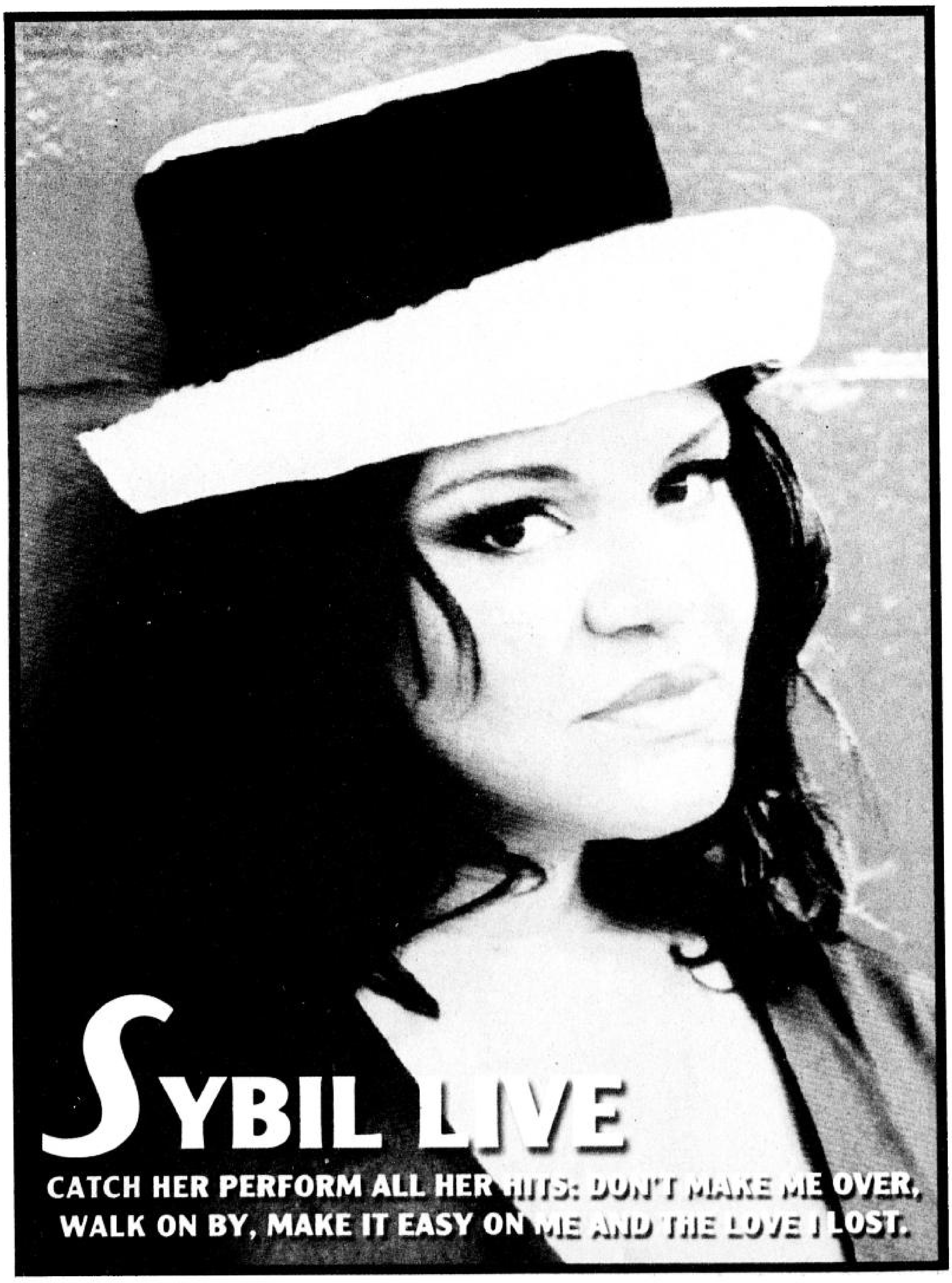
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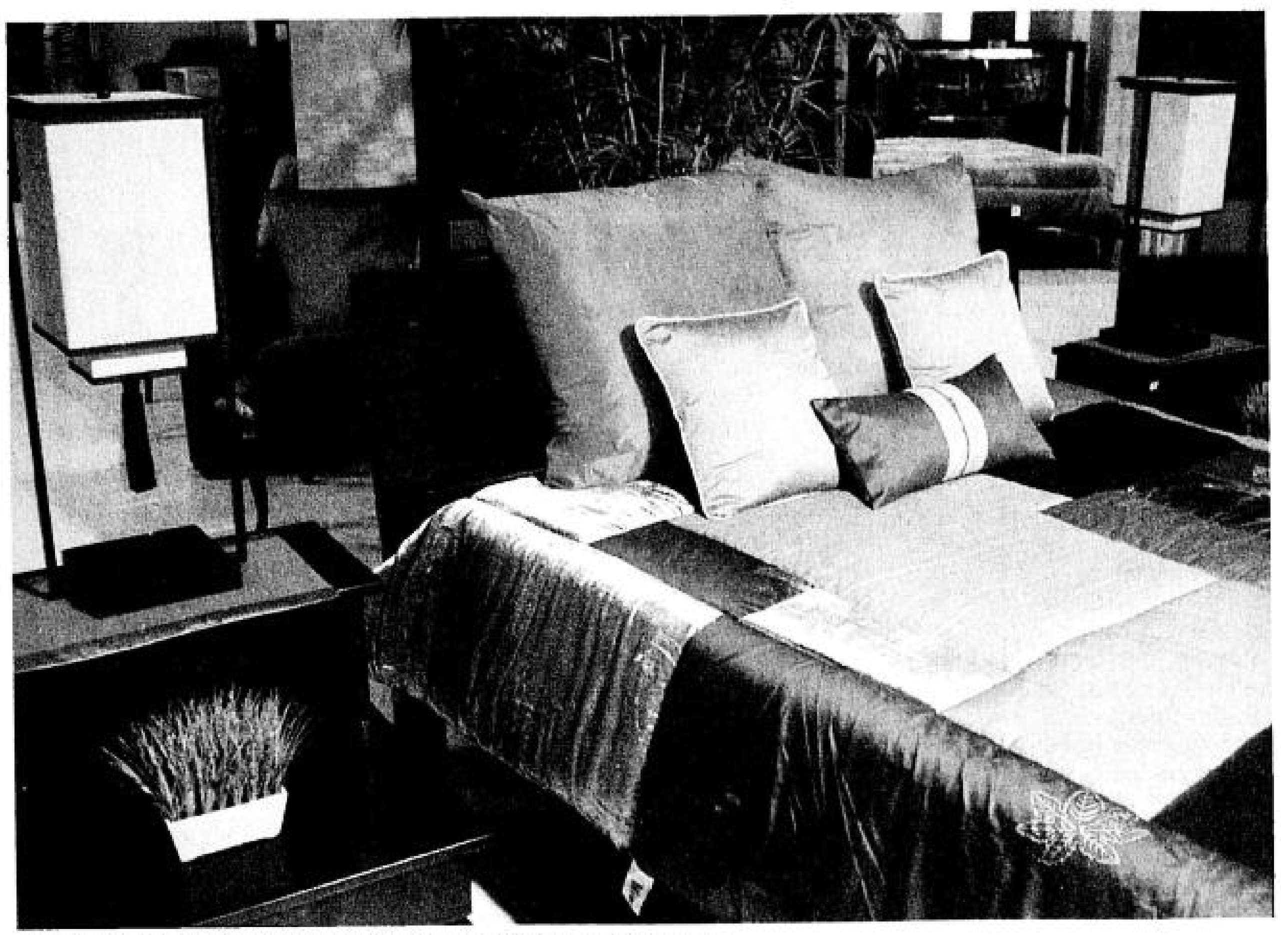
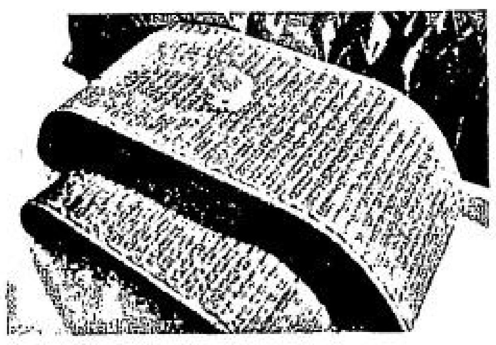
Sunday LIFESTYLE Home



GREENERY in the bedroom provides an aura of peace and serenity.

Make your home your refuge



FOOTREST made of natural materials gives a bedroom a soothing ambiance.

TRANSFORM your home into a place of serenity where you can take refuge after a tough day.

Renowned architect Jeff Isidro, using the principles of feng shui, offers the following home design tips:

· Begin by identifying each room's purpose.

· Ventilation is a fundamental element in holistic design. Make sure every room is well-ventilated to allow the free flow of energy.

· The use of lines in rooms can be beneficial. Diagonal lines are recommended in highly active spaces like the kitchen. Horizontal lines in the bedroom suggest sleep and relaxation.

· Colors can completely change the look of a house. This is the most inexpensive way to alter the feel of your rooms. Use earth tones like mocha or pastels such as powder blue in the bedroom and the living room as the hues give a sense of tranquility.

Vibrant shades like red and yellow are often used in spaces like the kitchen and den.

· Use natural materials like wood and bamboo in furniture and accessories for their soothing properties. Know what materials may cause allergy. Use paint and adhesives that are environmentally safe.

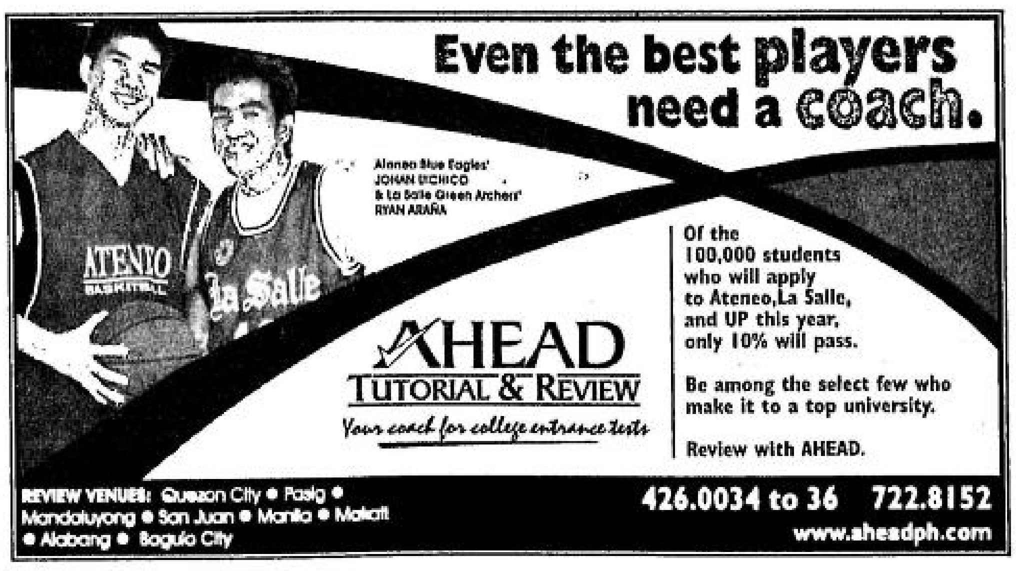
· Music and natural sounds such as cascading water or even the soft chirping of birds can help create a feeling of coolness.

· A positive mental attitude creates a positive lifestyle. Believe you are lucky and you will be.

Feng shui, the ancient art of life-space design, literally means wind and water, both sources of energy. It is used to achieve beauty, peace of mind, harmony and prosperity.

The Federal Design Expo has furniture sets that are suited for feng shui's principles of holistic and harmonious balance. It is located at 2250 Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Call 8936553/8936589.

ACCESSORIES can help bring a sense of tranquility to a room.



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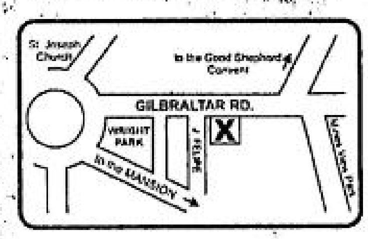

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VOLVO
for life

Why not rattan?

Part two

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

NOT too long ago, everyone wanted rattan furniture for their homes. The demand grew that rattan began to disappear the way we are losing forest trees today.

Somewhere along the line, the wood became in vogue. Maybe that was a blessing in disguise, because rattan is beginning to thrive well again.

But then, like the forests, cutting rattan stands has also been banned. So now reports have it that the Export Development Council is urging that, since logging is banned, the harvest of rattan be allowed.

It is not an unreasonable plea, so perhaps it's time to think in terms of rattan (and bamboo) once more.

The Filipino furniture maker excels in whatever material he works with—wood, bamboo or rattan. I'm not sure if he has tried plastic, at least not the way Italians make them, but I won't be surprised if he outdoes his professional colleagues abroad in its use.

It may thus be timely to return to rattan. At least, while the logging ban is in force and the trees are allowed to grow back.

Forestry researcher Jun Alvarez reports: "As minor forest product, rattan has leaped to the forefront of commerce and industry… In the last two decades, it has emerged as the most sought-after raw material of the country's burgeoning furniture industry with a very high export (potential). Its resiliency produces the most exquisite furniture and handicraft that command high prices in both the local and international markets. Today, rattan ranks foremost among non-wood species, second (of course) to timber."

Like wood, however, rattan production needs to be managed well and sustainably since it is exhaustible when wantonly exploited.

Research institutions and funding agencies are working hand-in-hand to develop viable technologies for the production and utilization of rattan.

It's an excellent alternative to wood. The profitability of furniture from this forest product has exceeded expectations

The profitability of furniture from this material has exceeded expectations.

Major furniture factories in the country, according to Alvarez, are located in Cebu, Pangasinan, Metro Manila and the cities of Angeles, Tacloban, Bacolod, Gen. Santos and Zamboanga.

Rattan is an excellent alternative to wood, so why not use it?

Pasig marathon

Environmental groups like to organize sports events to call attention to their causes. They find sports and nature complementary. Sports develop healthy bodies, and a healthy environment is conducive to both.

So last Feb. 27, the Clean & Green Foundation Inc. (CGFI), headed by former First Lady Amelita M. Ramos, sponsored the First International Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River. It is the CGFI's advocacy project for the Pasig River Rehabilitation Program.

In the past, the foundation held marathons for the same purpose but these were national in scope. This time around, it brought in international participants as well as officials to validate standards and the routes.

This latest marathon was a 42-km race that started from Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila, and ended in Fort Bonifacio, Makati. The route included the 13 bridges that crossed the Pasig. These bridges, incidentally, are maintained by the CGFI as part of its regular river rehabilitation program.

The route was selected to show off the river and the city's many economic and tourism potentials.

The event also saw the participation of the business sector, which provided support and logistics. Companies involved were Samsung Electronics, Shell Phils., San Miguel Corp., Unilever, ShoeMart Foundation, Pagcor, Asics Phil., TransAsia Power Generation Corp., Fortune General Insurance Corp., Colgate-Palmolive, Splash Foundation and Mabuhay Vinyl Corp, as well as publishing and broadcast companies.

The reasons behind the participation of the business sector was best expressed by Samsung CEO Hyuck Jae Shim: "Through this marathon, we are helping to achieve three tasks—clean-up of the river which will not only change the landscape of Manila physically but also contribute to business and tourism; promote well-being and a healthy lifestyle; and promote an advocacy that we should all take part in…"

He concluded with a reminder: "Taking care of our environment is synonymous with taking care of our future."

The sports event was formalized by a memorandum of understanding signed by Ms Ramos, Mr. Hyuck, Eric Buhain and Tisha D. Abundo, co-chairs of the Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River. Also present was Ben Silva-Nette, first Filipino marathoner who participated in the 1968 Mexico Summer Games.

An added boost to this Pasig River advocacy is the Presidential Declaration making the Philippine Marathon, to be known henceforth as the International Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River, an official event to be held every Feb. 27.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

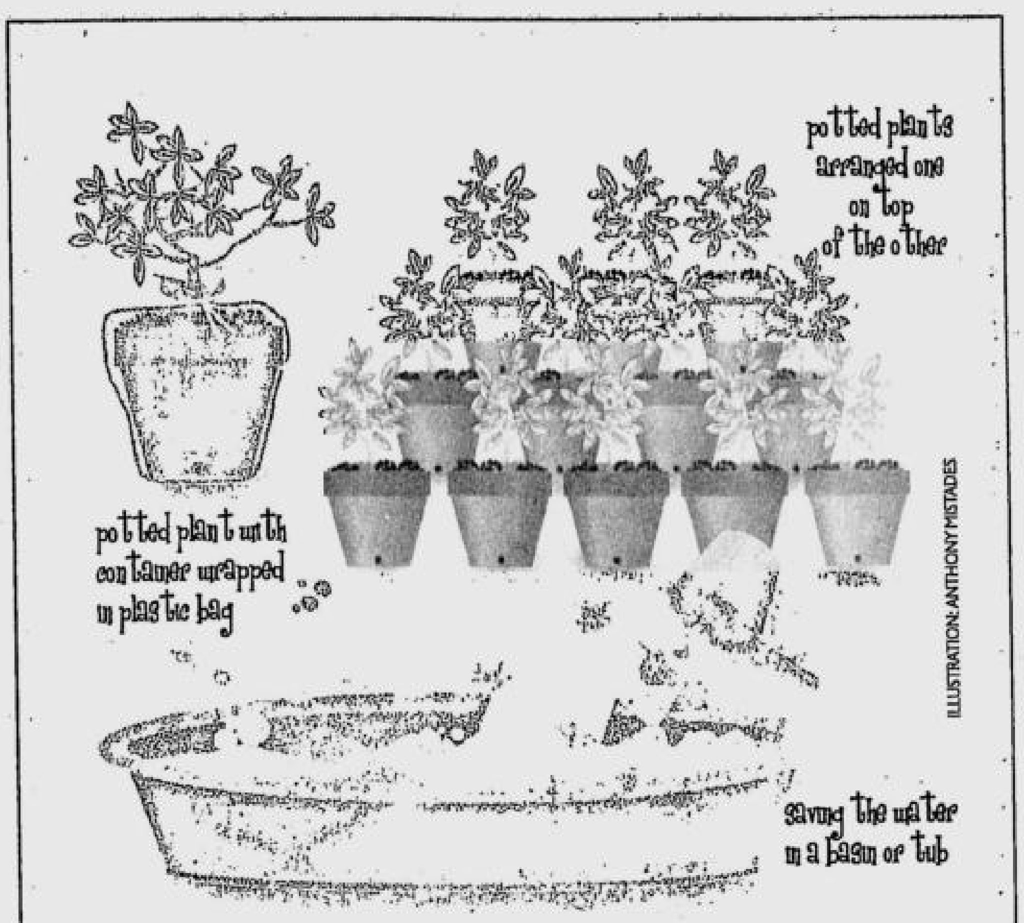

potted plants arranged one on top of the other
potted plant with container wrapped in plastic bag
saving the water in a basin or tub

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

Conserving water in summer

By Serapion S. Metilla
Contributor

GREEN TIPS

USUALLY water is scarce during these hot, dry months. You have to use water wisely, especially if you have a large garden.

Here are some water conservation tips:

- When taking a bath, catch the used water in a large basin or tub. The water you save, even if soapy, can be used to water the lawn and other plants, potted or not.
- Arrange potted plants in two to three tiers—one on top of the other—in two to three layers (see illustration). When you water the top plant, the liquid will flow to those below. Arranging plants close to each other will prevent rapid loss of moisture.
- Plants in pots can be put individually in plastic bags just after watering. Tie the rim of the bag tightly around the basal stem of the plant (see illustration). Make sure the bags have no punctures or holes. This will prevent rapid loss of moisture.

The plants may be watered again after a week or when moisture inside the bag has dried up. You can also tell if a plant needs watering when it shows a slight wilting. Some plants need more water than others.

- Hedges or plants on the ground may be treated with mulch, which will serve as ground cover. The mulch can be made from shredded papers or plastics, wood shavings, dried leaves or clippings, crockery or gravel. With the mulch, soil will not easily lose its moisture.
- Save water from washing clothes instead of throwing it out. Soapy water may be used as insecticide.

The author will conduct a seminar workshop on flower arrangement April 13-17 at Mett's Plant Art, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank compound, QC. Call 9394593.

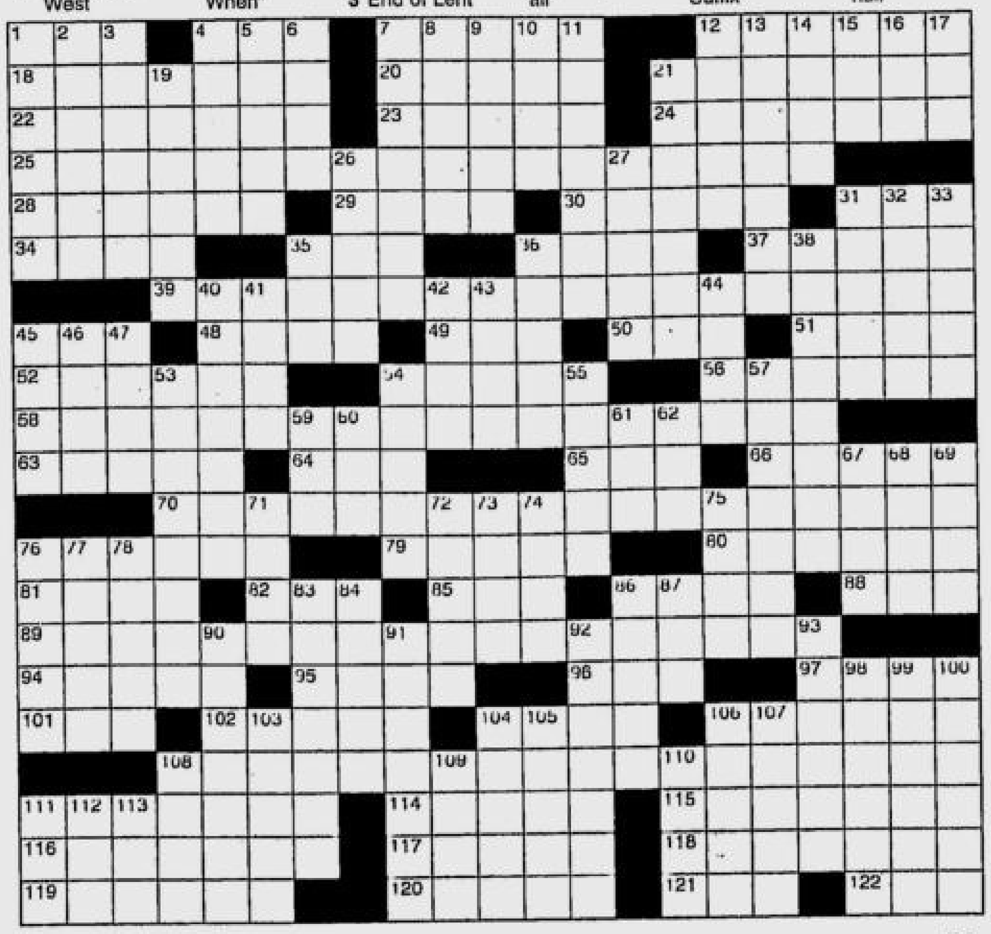
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM

ACROSS
1 Amazement
4 Pres. Monroe, for short
7 Meat jelly
12 Aromatic herbs
18 Wipeout?
20 "Once — midnight dreary ..."
21 Pained look
22 More perilous
23 Ditties
24 Have to admit a mistake
25 "Dog Day Afternoon" chant
28 Old rival of Athens
29 — Stanley Gardner
30 Origin
31 Summer, in Soissons
34 St. Louis Arch designer Saarinen
35 — -fi film
36 Door in a fence
37 Antique auto
39 Part of Ipana toothpaste's jingle
45 Temptress West
48 Just-prior periods
49 Legged it
50 Right-angled pipe
51 Stagger
52 Rub away
54 Street corner crowds
56 Counterbalance
58 Jan's cry in "The Brady Bunch movie"
63 On a cruise
64 Tyrant Amin
65 Historian's study
66 Brilliant success
70 1956 James Brown hit
76 Raise in relief
79 Baker's staple
80 Circular currents
81 Ganges garment
82 Pro —
85 Pt. of E.T.A.
86 Iceberg
88 Sends a duplicate to, briefly
89 Pop song subtitled "Tell Me When"
94 Wed
95 Arm bone
96 Cologne conjunction
97 Mini-guitars
101 Ending for Caesar
102 "Oro y —" (Montana motto)
104 Reagan cabineteer Alexander
106 Hun king
108 Start of the "Rawhide" theme
111 Attacks
114 "Ours — to reason why"
115 Bening or Funicello
116 Dir. assistance info
117 Pay the penalty
118 Burger units
119 Cesar of "Batman"
120 Less doubtful
121 — dye
122 It's not an exact fig.

DOWN
1 Make fizzy
2 Squirm in pain
3 End of Lent
4 Fruit fluid
5 Districts
6 Blood fluids
7 Vienna locale
8 Ruin
9 — de Leon
10 Swenson of the screen
11 Sweet melons
12 Attribute
13 One tying the knot
14 Youth org.
15 Injure
16 Prefix with tourism
17 Suture
19 Vehicle for riding downhill over snow
21 "Stop dreaming!"
26 PC support offerers
27 Give 10 percent
31 Twisty letters
32 Little giggle
33 Lift up
35 Map dir.
36 Kipling's "— Din"
38 Came up for air
40 Calls up again
41 Eye part
42 Bric-a- —
43 Indian princess
44 Political alliance
45 Cradle call
46 Blind as —
47 Is fallible
53 Score in backgammon
54 Heartache
55 Sling mud at
57 Caught a fly ball, e.g.
59 Farrow of "Zelig"
60 Junk mail, often
61 Caesar's craft
62 "Norma —"
67 Secular
68 "Wait just —!"
69 Actress Harper
71 This, in Tijuana
72 First course of action
73 Lady's man
74 Schilling replacer
75 Lowly sort
76 Sort of: Suffix
77 — Loa
78 Intellect
83 The same as
84 Prefix with purpose
86 Yeast and mold
87 Boy
90 One unseating
91 Biblical liar
92 Bedspread maker
93 Wall socket
98 Scottish Highlander, e.g.
99 Exclusive groups
100 Least loony
103 Grassy plain
104 Wedding vow word
105 Solo
106 Bandleader Desi
107 Lone Ranger's pal
108 Thinker Descartes
109 Post-Q queue
110 California wine valley
111 Lifeguard's skill
112 "Well now!"
113 Dad's other half



answer on page D3

STORE TO DO LOS BAÑOS GARDEN EXHIBIT
GREEN 2000 will arrange the center exhibit during the Los Baños Orchid Society garden show April 15-24 at the Senior Social Garden in the University of the Philippines Los Baños, Laguna.
Landscaper Young Lao will design and execute the show's center exhibit. Lao's model landscapes are on exhibit at the Green 2000 store at Manila Seedling Bank on Quezon Avenue corner Edsa, QC.
Owned by Adela Ang, Green 2000 is a one-stop shop for garden supplies and equipment.
In photo is a part of a Yuyung la O landscape at the Green 2000 plant store at Manila Seedling Bank. Note the use of Sanseveria, a plant that keeps its form for a long time.

Flowers for business and leisure

LEARN the art of flower arrangement for all occasions as a hobby and livelihood. Serapion S. Metilla, professor of Ikebana and plant art expert, is offering a five-day seminar-workshop on flower arrangement and flower shop operation, 1 to 6 p.m., April 13-17, Mett's Plant Art, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC.

Topics to be discussed are:

Day 1: Basic Ikebana-Moribana and Shoka

Day 2: Western style-all-around or one-sided and L-shaped

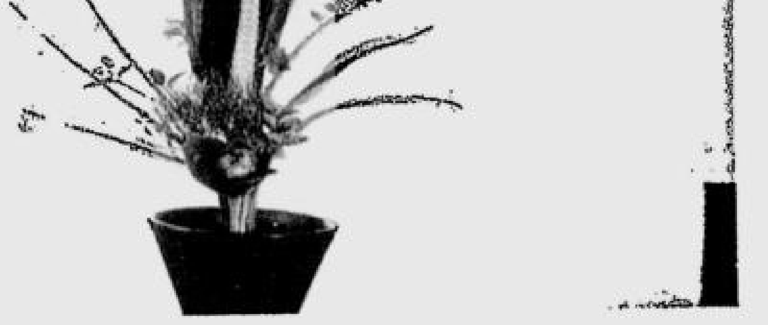
Day 3: Western style-crescent shape, Hogarth line, flower shop operation and source of materials

Day 4: Free style, buffet or party centerpieces and garland making

Day 5: Corsage making, bridal bouquet and other wedding items

All materials will be provided for the hands-on part such as flower vases, floral foams, foliage, flowers, scissors, floral wires, ribbons and floral tapes, among others. A minimum fee will be charged for the materials, snacks, handouts, certificate and venue.

Registration should be made not later than April 10. Call 4352479 during office hours or 93945937 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.



AMP and SMART Buddy Present the Winners of the

MTV VJ Hunt 2005

The New Faces of MTV

New VJs Colby Miller, Claire Olivar, Nicole Fonacier and Don Puno strike a pose

KC Montero and [illegible] for the event

There was a time when the only way we would know who sang a particular song on a radio was to wait for the disc jockey or DJ to identify them. With the advent of MTV or Music Television in the early 1980s, the concept of a "VJ" or "video jockey" became a reality. The VJs would introduce music videos, while also keeping the viewers entertained. Since MTV made its way to our shores, the music television giant has made it a point to give the Filipino public VJs we can call our own. Thus, the MTV VJ Hunt was born.

Addict Mobile Prepaid (AMP) and SMART Buddy both recently joined MTV in the latest incarnation of its highly successful MTV VJ Hunt which culminated at the Finals Night held at Le Pavillon. Sixteen young men and women vied for the honor of being the new Filipino faces on the world's premiere music channel. From February 6 to March 16, 2005 AMP and SMART Buddy subscribers could text who their favorite VJ prospects were by simply keying in VJHUNT<space>NAME OF VJ to 688. With sixteen great options to choose from, Marv Luna and Chynna Ortaleza eventually were named the AMP Texters' Choice awardees. They both won an AMP phonekit featuring a Nokia 3200 and an Addict Mobile Prepaid CustoMYSIM.

Celine Lopez

Nicole Hernandez

Viva Hotbabe Sheree

Rachel Alejandro

Francis M. shows everyone why he is the "Master Rapper"

[illegible] Maike Evers, [illegible] Nicole Hernandez were also present

South Border pumps up the crowd

Last March 17, all roads led to Le Pavillon as the young and hip prepared to meet 2005's new VJs. The audience was entertained by musical acts as diverse as Francis M, Session Road, Juan Pablo Dream, and South Border, while VJs Sarah Meier, Cindy Kurleto, KC Montero, and Marc Abaya did a special opening number with Kjwan and Jimmy Muna. Jon Papworth, the youngest of the contestants, won the SMART Buddy World Peace Award for being the friendliest of the bunch. Jon received a SMART Buddy phonekit complete with the versatile SMART Buddy Super SIM 3.

Eventually, four fresh and hip personalities emerged as the new faces and voices of MTV Philippines. Nicole Fonacier, Don Puno, Claire Olivar, and Colby Miller stood triumphant beside VJs Sarah, Cindy, KC, Marc, Reema Chanco, Mariel Rodriguez, Cesca Litton, John Joe Joseph and VJ/AMP endorser Maike Evers. The new "fantastic four" are set to be fixtures on your television sets in a few months, so watch out – the spotlight now focuses entirely on them.

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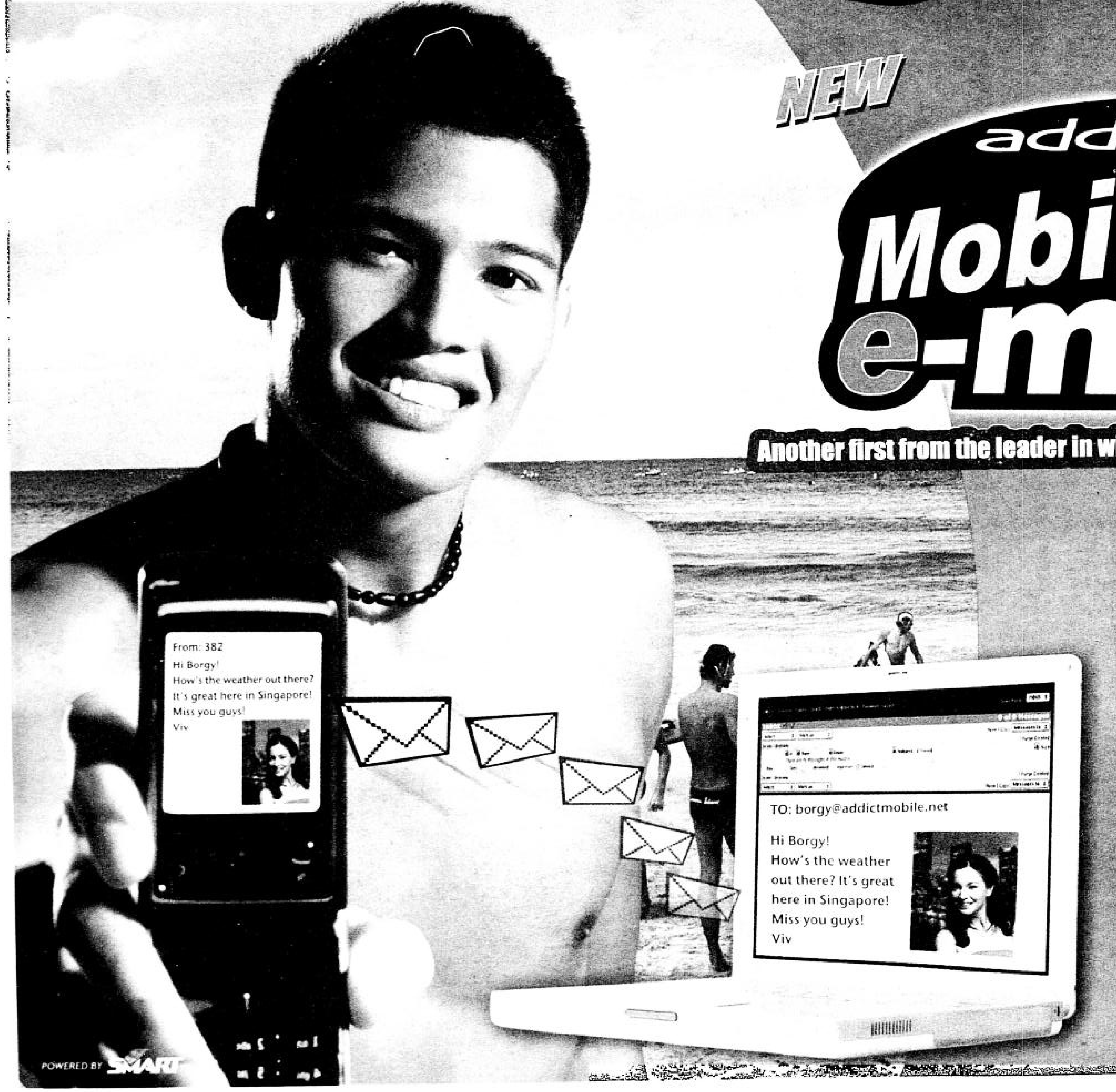
From: 382
Hi Borgy!
How's the weather out there?
It's great here in Singapore!
Miss you guys!
Viv

TO: borgy@addictmobile.net
Hi Borgy!
How's the weather out there? It's great here in Singapore!
Miss you guys!
Viv

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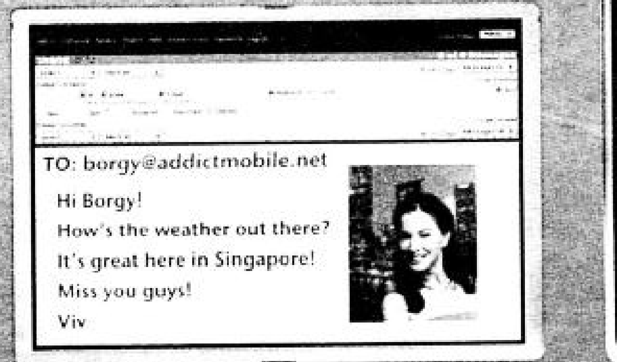
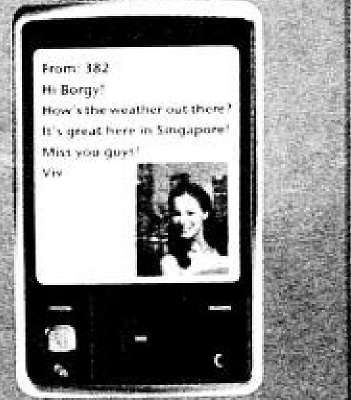

TO: borgy@addictmobile.net
Hi Borgy!
How's the weather out there?
It's great here in Singapore!
Miss you guys!
Viv

Send your e-mail message with photo attachment to your friend's Addict Mobile e-mail address.


From: 382
Hi Borgy!
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Miss you guys!
Viv

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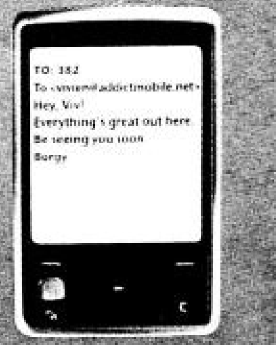
TO: 382
To <vivien@addictmobile.net>
Hey, Viv!
Everything's great out here.
Be seeing you soon
Borgy

To compose an SMS e-mail message, Text TO <e-mail address> <your message> and send to 382.

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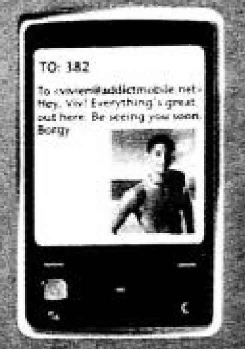
TO: 382
To <vivien@addictmobile.net>
Hey, Viv! Everything's great out here. Be seeing you soon.
Borgy

Then, send your photo via MMS and text TO <e-mail address> <your message> to 382.

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2. Activate the service by sending MMS ON to 333.
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Invasion of the 'Robots'

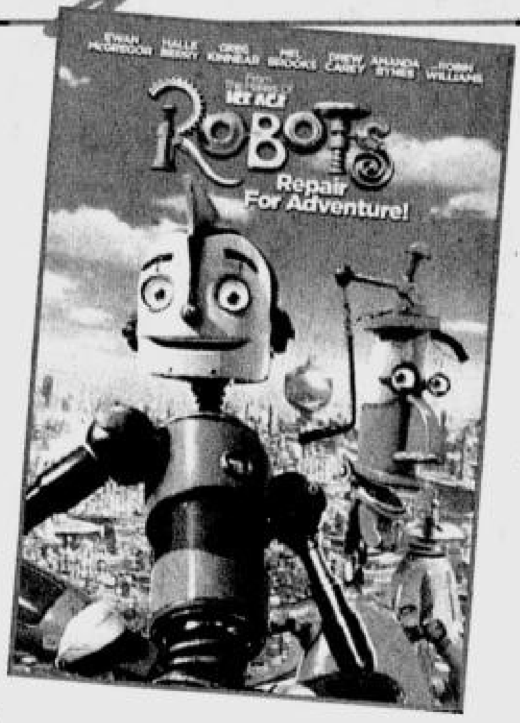
Kids and parents take to the latest animated feature with delight

THE "ROBOTS" have conquered!

At the Greenbelt Cinema 3 recently, children and parents flocked to the highly anticipated advance screening of "Robots," the computer-animated feature comedy starring the voices of Ewan McGregor, Robin Williams, Halle Berry, Mel Brooks, Drew Carey, Amanda Bynes and Jamie Kennedy

"Robots" is the second full-length offering from Blue Sky Studios, following the worldwide

INVASION/ K2



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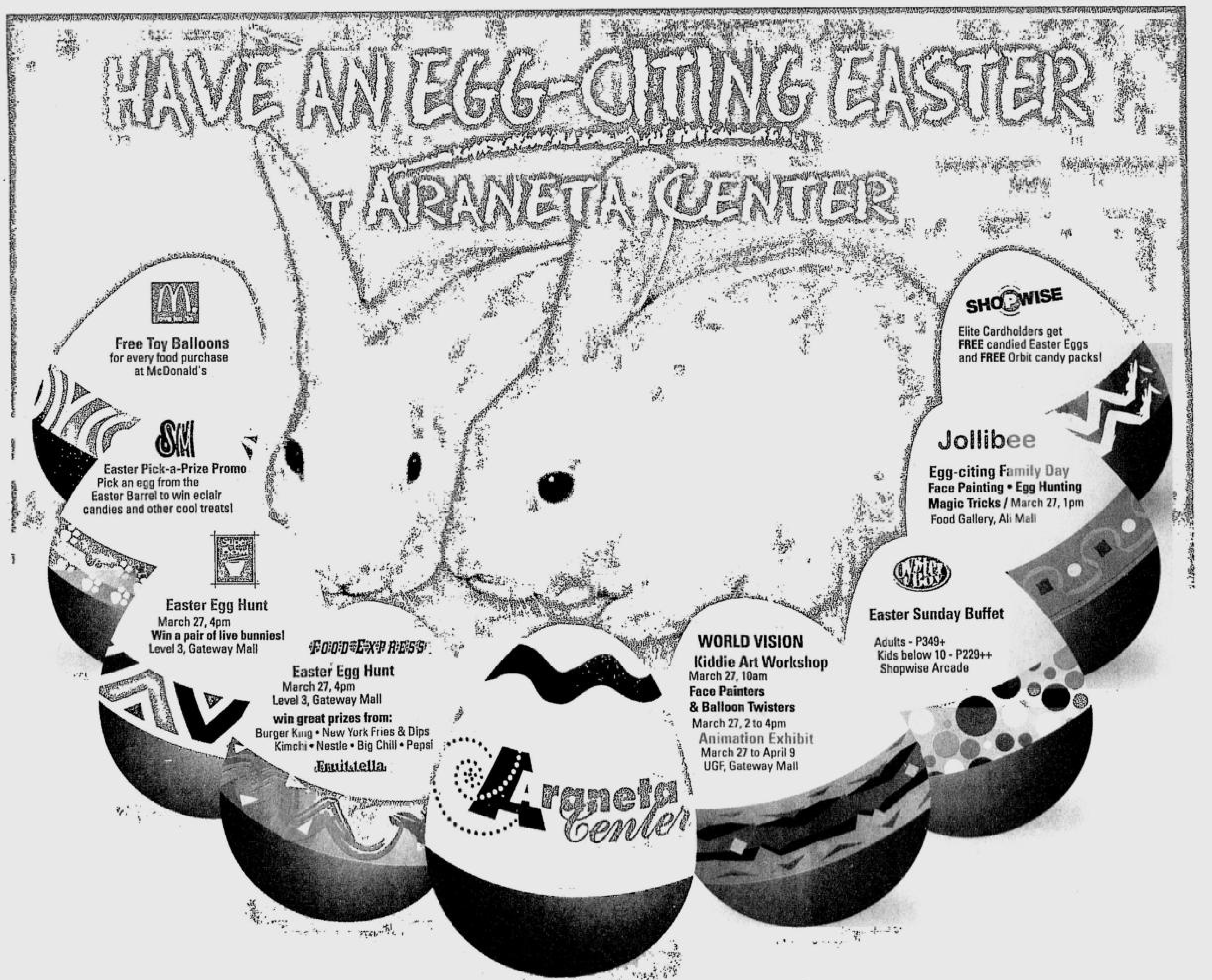
So say goodbye to those prescriptions. Let mother earth's herbs balance your system. Here is a special man's tonic for maintaining healthy masculine function and vigour. The Chinese have long recognized the value of these herbs as rejuvenative and relief for depleted sexual energy resulting from exhaustion. **Honey Moon Tea** contains : **Herba Epimedu, Herba Cynomoru, Woodwardia Japonica, Fructus Polygalea, Semen Astragali Complanati, Radix Ginseng and Pilose Antler.**

Relax, nourish and protect your body. It's a perfect blend that's safe and all-natural. With its pleasant taste and aroma, try some and set fire to your sex life! Avoid embarrassment and frustration, let **Honey Moon Tea make every moment feel like a honeymoon.**

Honey Moon Tea is available at all leading drugstores and selected supermarkets nationwide.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Pick an egg from the
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Easter Egg Hunt
March 27, 4pm
Win a pair of live bunnies!
Level 3, Gateway Mall

FOOD EXPRESS
Easter Egg Hunt
March 27, 4pm
Level 3, Gateway Mall
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Araneta Center

WORLD VISION
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March 27, 10am
Face Painters
& Balloon Twisters
March 27, 2 to 4pm
Animation Exhibit
March 27 to April 9
UGF, Gateway Mall

SHOPWISE
Elite Cardholders get
FREE candied Easter Eggs
and FREE Orbit candy packs!

Jollibee
Egg-citing Family Day
Face Painting • Egg Hunting
Magic Tricks / March 27, 1pm
Food Gallery, Ali Mall

Easter Sunday Buffet
Adults - P349+
Kids below 10 - P229++
Shopwise Arcade

Jollibee Easter Parade Sunday, March 27, 10am • Free Bunnies At Gateway Mall! Sunday, March 27

GATEWAY MALL • ALI MALL • FARMERS PLAZA • FARMERS MARKET • VALUE STATION • FIESTA CARNIVAL • ARANETA COLISEUM

GIFT Gate's Virgie Ramos shows Kit Zobel and her daughters Natasha and Sylvia the hottest Robot keychains from Swatch.

ANTHONY and Tet Suntay with kids Marco, Anika and Kael

Invasion of the 'Robots'

JON Hall with friend Sarah, Isabel Roces and Miggy Romero

RICKY Davao with kids Rikkimae and Arabella

From page K1

box-office success of 2002's "Ice Age."

During the screening at Greenbelt 3's Cinema 2 THX, keychains and watches from Swatch as well as special "Robots" items from 20th Century Fox were given away. The guests were given snacks and toys courtesy of Burger King.

Lucky winners included Kit Zobel, Ricky Davao, Joanne Quintas, Plinky Recto; and Geneva Cruz's son Heaven. Other celebrities among the audience were Sigalit Djemal, model Isabel Roces and young politician Miggy Romero, John Hall, and sports commentator Anthony Suntay.

"Robots" tells the inspiring story of Rodney Copperbottom (voiced by Ewan McGregor), a heroic young 'bot with two things on his mind: to make the world a better place and to make his father proud.

The film was directed by Chris Wedge and Carlos Saldanha.

The advance screening was made possible by Burger King, Gift Gate, 20th Century Fox and Globe.

THE "STARSTRUCK" kids: Ella Guevarra, Shammel Leask and Madeleine Yu

CAPPY & BIGWELD

SIGALIT Djemal with sons Tal and Ram

NOEL and Ginggay de la Merced with son Noey

PLINKY Recto wins prizes from Swatch and Gift Gate.

HEAVEN Arespacochaga wins a Robot from Swatch.

KIT Zobel wins prizes from Swatch and Gift Gate.

NORI Ongsiako, Cecile Limjoco, Nena Casimiro and Nellie Bengzon

MAURICE with hosts Karen Macasaet, Mellie Ablaza, Nini Licaros, Helen Ong, Chit Salud, Nene Leonor, Evie Costa and Fe Rodriguez

Afternoon bash for inimitable 'palangga'

LINDA Pastoral, Tereret Liboro and Suzanne Laudico

BECKY Garcia, Fortune Ledesma and Celia Cuasay

PITOY Moreno and Criselda Lontok

ROI Phillips and Chit Dee

NENA del Rosario and Myrna Borromeo

EMILY Lopez and Daisy Payumo

MANILA'S most beautiful women turned up to honor everyone's favorite *palangga*, Maurice Arcache, during his recent merienda cena birthday party at the Pacific Plaza's elegant social hall.

Hosting the party were some of Manila's topnotch hostesses: Nena Leonor, Nini Licaros, Chit Salud, Mellie Ablaza, Letty Syquia, Fe Rodriguez, Evie Costa, Fortune Ledesma, Naty Pappas, Helen Ong and Karen Macasaet.

Among the glamorous and beautiful people who came were Makati's first lady, the amiable Dra. Elenita Binay; fashion designers Pitoy Moreno, Bobby Novenario and Criselda Lontok; beauty queens Edith Nakpil Rabat and Myrna Borromeo joined by Dona Nena del Rosario; gorgeous Joanne de Asis Salgado, who brought Maurice's favorite treats—talong salad, torta and beef tapa; Myrna Yao; Julita Villareal; Nini Valdez; Dandy Gomez; Betsy Tenchavez; Pitang Tiongson, and Noni Basilio.

Other notables seen at the party were Edna Camcam, Baby Arenas, Roi Philips, sisters Vilma Valera and Susan Laudico, Offie Recto, Ruby Tuason, Justa Tantoco, Berna Lomotan, Letty Jorman, Celia Cuasay and Mayenne Carmona.

Coming in a little late but catching up with the party pack were Chit Dee, dancing queen and soon-to-wed Becky Garcia, Yoly Ayson, Ching Cruz, Yaying Dragon; Emily Lopez, Daisy Payumo, Ernie and Fe Yu, and so many others.

It was a late afternoon of fun, glamour and good company, all for the love of Maurice. May you have more birthdays to come, our dear *palangga*.

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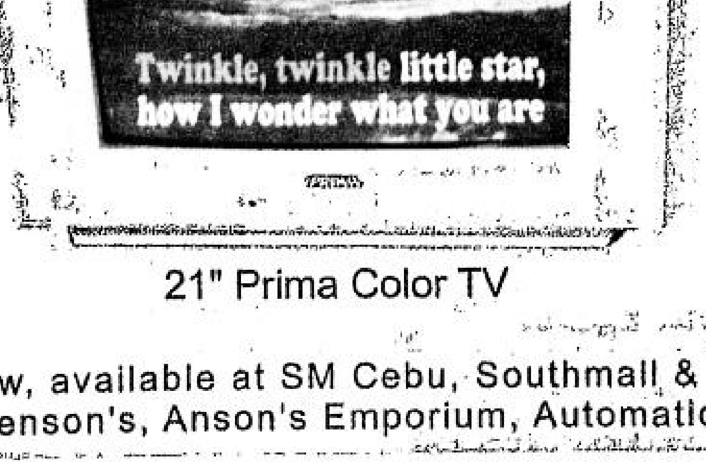

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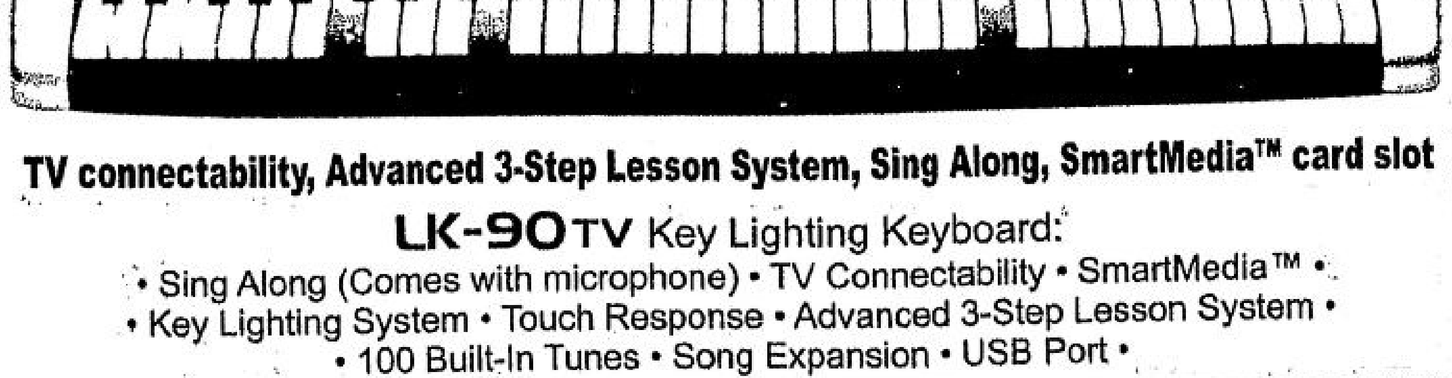

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Peace Philharmonic opens season at Cebu cathedral

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

THE PEACE Philharmonic of the Philippines (PPP) opened its 2005 Chamber Classics season, dubbed "Soul Moments," with a concert at the Cebu cathedral.

Maestro Eugene Castillo conducted, while Benedictine monk Fr. Manuel Maramba, OSB, played the cathedral's excellent pipe organ. Fr. Maramba played a solo, "Toccata in G Major" by Theodore Dubois, and two numbers with the PPP Chamber Players: the Vivaldi Concerto for Violin and Organ Obbligato, with Brian Cimafranca as violin soloist; and Immaculate Mother Variations arranged by Antonio Gabriel Arambulo who was guest artist with the first violins.

The rest of the program included Adagio and Fugue in C Minor by Mozart; the well-known Air on the G-String by Bach; Sinfonia a Cinque by Albinoni; and Chrisanthemums, an elegy by Puccini, which was played at the finale. But the performance actually ended with everyone singing Immaculate Mother as the orchestra and organ played resoundingly.

It was not lost on the audience that the day was the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes who appeared to a peasant girl, Bernadette, in 1858. In a village on the Pyrenees mountains, the Virgin told the girl, "I am the Immaculate Concepcion," at a time when that dogma had not yet been published by the Catholic Church. A spring with healing powers appeared in the place, which is visited by millions of pilgrims every year.

Driving force

His Eminence, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, archbishop of Cebu, attended the concert. He effusively thanked Ingrid Sala Santamaria for holding the beautiful event in the cathedral. Ingrid, as we've said before, is the PPP's driving force.

CONCERT at the Cebu Cathedral. Antonio Gabriel Arambulo, conductor Eugene Castillo, organist Fr. Manuel Maramba, OSB, Cardinal Ricardo Vidal, Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Susan Montenegro Sala

The concert was presented in cooperation with the Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation which, Ingrid says, is inextricably associated with the PPP. There is also a PPP Foundation where Ingrid is also actively involved. Its board members include the chief justice's wife, Virginia Davide; Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr., former Cebu City mayor Ronald Duterte, Baltazar Endriga, prominent Cebu lawyer Manuel Go, and Marissa Fernan who pursues the mission of her late father, Marcelo Fernan, who was chief justice then Senate president.

Cebu looks forward to two more "Soul Moments" events to be held at the Atlantic Hall of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. Tickets are available at P1,000, P500 and P100 at the PPP office, 415 Gorordo Avenue, Cebu City. Call 2311341. Cora Mahinay is in charge.

Classical guitar

"Moments of Musical Reflection" has been scheduled for 7 p.m., April 25, to be conducted by Jeffrey Solares, the PPP's director for studies. It will feature classical guitar artist Barney Fojas.

"The Soul of Cello" will conclude the season at 7 p.m., May 15. It will be conducted by Renato Lucas. The PPP's three ace cellists will take turns as soloists—Gerry Gonzalez, Jibbie Rose Reyes and Aristeo Solares.

Kudos to them, and to every member of the PPP:

First violins - Brian Cimafranca, Sara Maria Gonzalez, Ebb Galindo, Rodelio Glodove, Maricel Mañus and Wayneth Ibales;

Second violins - Joseph Lanzaderas, Princess Christine Ybañez, Marie Antoinette Gorgonio, Reggie Marie Parajes, Marie-Vic Briones, Norwena Belocura and Nige Abarquez;

Violas - Joseph Balo, Genevive Galindo, Adrian Beltran, Hara Hernando, Jun-Rey Parajes; Basses - Christopher Mañus and Virgilio Ylaya; Cambalo - Dennis Sugarol; and rehearsal supervisor Ariel Perez.

The Cebu Cathedral was also the scene of the solemn investiture of Dr. Potenciano Larrazabal Jr. as the first president of Cebu Doctors University. The ceremony was preceded by a Mass of thanksgiving with Bishop Roberto Alesna as main celebrant. Concelebrants were Fr. Rod Salazar, SVD; Fr. Constantino Real, OAR; and Fr. Socrates Cabanig.

The university started in 1972 when the Cebu Doctors Hospital opened. Some years later it was followed by the Cebu Doctors College. Dr. Jun Larrazabal exerted great efforts to maintain the excellence of both entities.

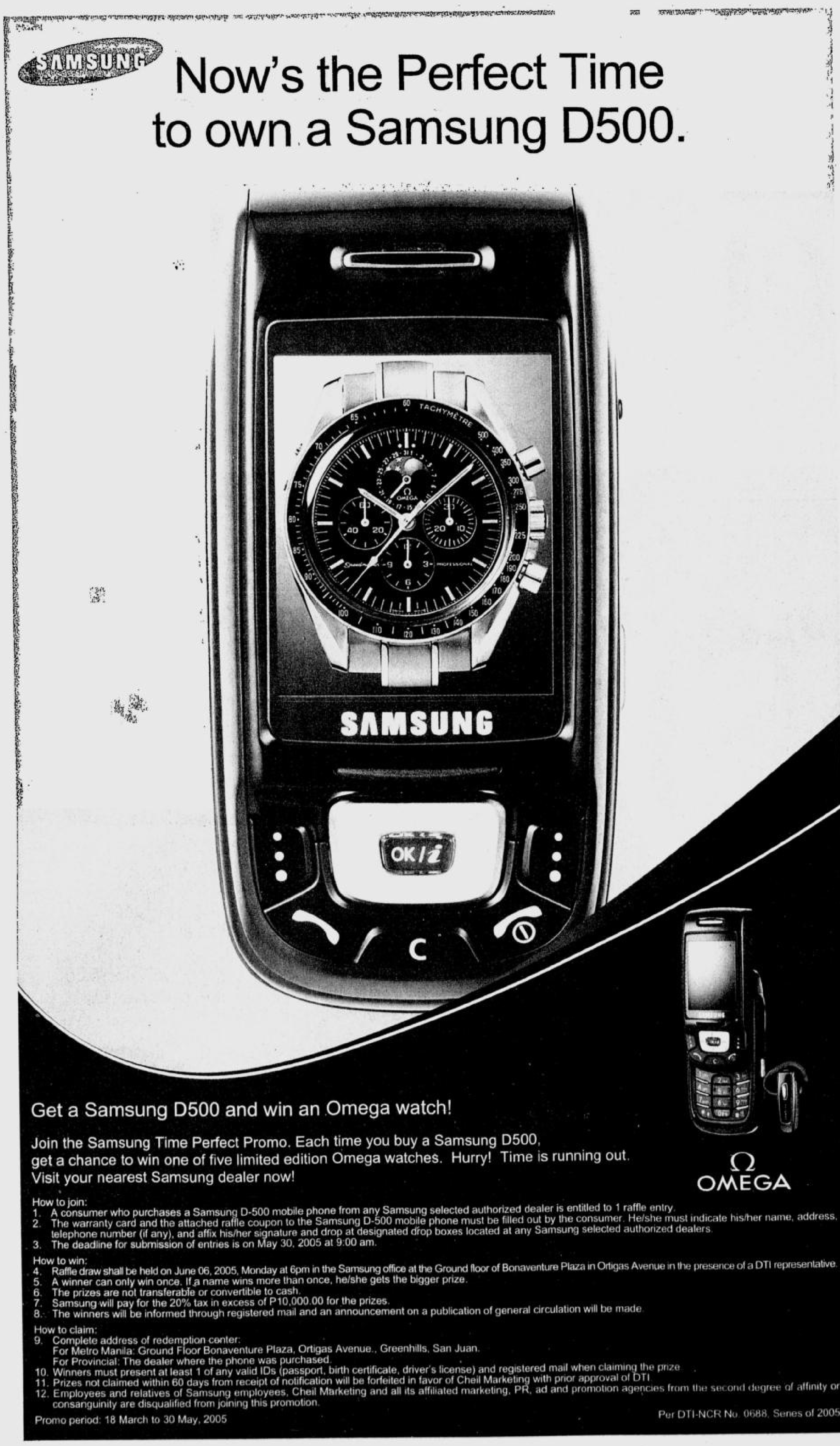
His wife Zeny Santo Domingo Larrazabal has been a great help and inspiration all these years, and so have their children, all of whom are involved in the running of the hospital and the school. They all figured prominently in the ceremonies.

Zeny presented her husband with the academic gown; Dr. Marinela Larrazabal Carcel, the hood; and Dr. Philip Antony Larrazabal, the cap. Bettina Anne Larrazabal Veloso and Dr. Potenciano Larrazabal III assisted Enrique Grecia, director of the Commission for Higher Education (CHED) in Cebu, in presenting the academic collar.

A champagne reception followed at the Casino Español de Cebu. Congratulations were showered on Zeny and Jun, he also being the chair of the university's board. Engineer Oscar Tuason and Dr. Enrico Gruet are vice presidents for administration and academics, respectively. Poten III is the secretary and his brother Anthony, treasurer.

In the board, too, are eminent doctors such as Guillermo Blanco, Cesar Estalilla, Lamberto Garcia, Mercedes Planas, Ofelia Sisno and Leon James Young.

JEFFREY Solares will conduct the next PPP concert on April 25.



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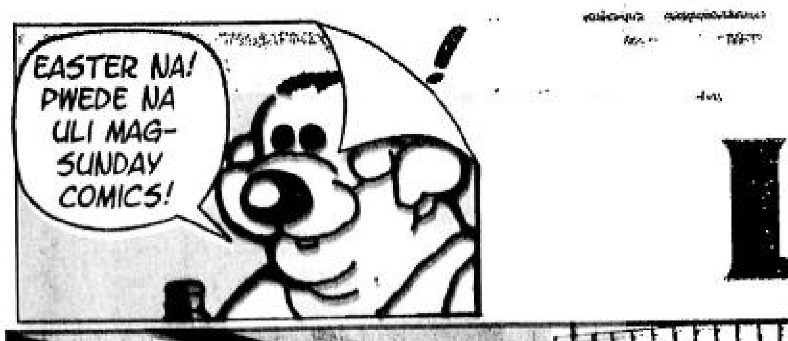
Per DTI-NCR No. 0688, Series of 2005



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RAMON Anievas Jr. and his new friends: Diego Lopez, Patrick Teng, Rance Paglin, Julian Co and Nathaniel Yu; (standing) Monaleizl Dy, class adviser of Section E, Mark Wang, Andre Ty and Davidson Uong. RUDY ESPERAS

Young Xavier School students make it possible for a teenage cancer survivor to get an artificial limb

A leg to stand on

By Alex Y. Vergara

HOW does it feel to negotiate the streets of Metro Manila with only one leg and aided by a pair of crutches?

Grade 7 boys of Xavier School in Greenhills, San Juan, may never know. But this didn't stop them from raising money to help Ramon Anievas, a 19-year-old cancer survivor, buy an artificial leg.

To dramatize their cause, Julian Co, one of the boys, hopped on one leg as he went around the school with a can for donations to "Operation Give a Leg."

His efforts were rewarded handsomely. Students, teachers and even parents gave generously. Within an hour or so, he collected P2,000.

In two days, the passion and persuasive power of the boys of Section E, led by class president Mark Wang, netted them P11,000.

The amount was added to the money Anievas' doctors at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) had already raised. Anievas has been wearing his artificial leg for over three months now.

"The doctor told me I'd soon stop growing," he says. "I can look forward to using the artificial leg for quite a number of years."

Not new

Digging deep into their pockets for a worthy cause is nothing new to students of Xavier.

The school has several "institutionalized" projects, including one aimed at helping needy children and another at providing homes for displaced Aetas. The projects are designed to instill altruism and Christian values among impressionable youngsters.

But "Operation Give a Leg" was the boys' own initiative, with guidance from class adviser Monaleizl Dy. Wang and fellow class officers learned about Anievas' plight late last year from a doctor at PGH.

As graduating students, their extracurricular activities were beginning to wind down. Apart from a trip to China late last year to hone their Mandarin and learn more about the roots of many of them, the boys felt they needed something worthwhile to do. The idea of helping Anievas was warmly received when Wang suggested it.

The class did not get to meet Anievas until a few months later, when he went to the school fair in February. The only image the boys had of him before that was from an old photograph. But Wang immediately felt a connection with Anievas at the sight of the frail, legless beneficiary.

Deserving

"When I learned that he provided moral support to other cancer patients at PGH," says Wang, "I felt all the more that he deserved our help."

Anievas' doctors at PGH had to cut off his entire right leg just below the groin 10 years ago to prevent cancer from spreading to other parts of his body. He was barely 9 when he was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a malignant form of bone cancer.

The chances of surviving osteosarcoma used to be quite slim. The situation has improved over the years.

Anievas was among the first group of patients the UP Musculoskeletal Tumor Unit treated successfully in the early 1990s. He has been declared cancer-free by attending specialists for several years now.

Anievas went about his daily activities, which included playing basketball and riding a bike, after his surgery. He is now studying computer programming, but he plans to shift to psychology next year.

Through the efforts of businessman Ricky Reyes, Anievas was first fitted with an artificial leg at age 11. Unfortunately, the leg, which was also made of fiberglass like his current one, lasted only three months.

"We had to travel quite a distance to reach the manufacturer," says Anievas. "Since we were quite hard up then, we weren't able to have the leg repaired."

Still adjusting

Anievas finds his movements a bit hampered these days, as he has yet to get used to his new leg. Still, he welcomes the help extended to him by his new friends.

"I'm touched by their gesture," says Anievas. "I welcome the fact that people now treat me a bit differently. Perhaps, they see me more as a normal person because of my [artificial] leg."

Anievas' disposition wasn't all that sunny, especially at the height of his illness. He and his siblings lived fairly comfortably until he was diagnosed with cancer. He blamed himself for the strain on the family's finances caused by his illness.

"I almost committed suicide thrice," he says. "In fact, there was a time I already slashed my wrist. The wound wasn't deep enough, but blood had started to [flow]. I changed my mind at the last minute."

Anievas' disposition changed soon after his older brother, the family's eldest child and a waiter at a restaurant chain, died in his sleep. Like many people in the midst of a crisis, he began asking God what His plan for him was. He thought of his family, especially his mom, who had been at her wit's end trying to make ends meet.

"That was when I realized that I just couldn't give up the fight," he says. "Not when my family had sacrificed so much to keep me alive."

He may have lost a leg and an elder brother to misfortune, but Anievas has regained hope and gotten a few little brothers with big hearts.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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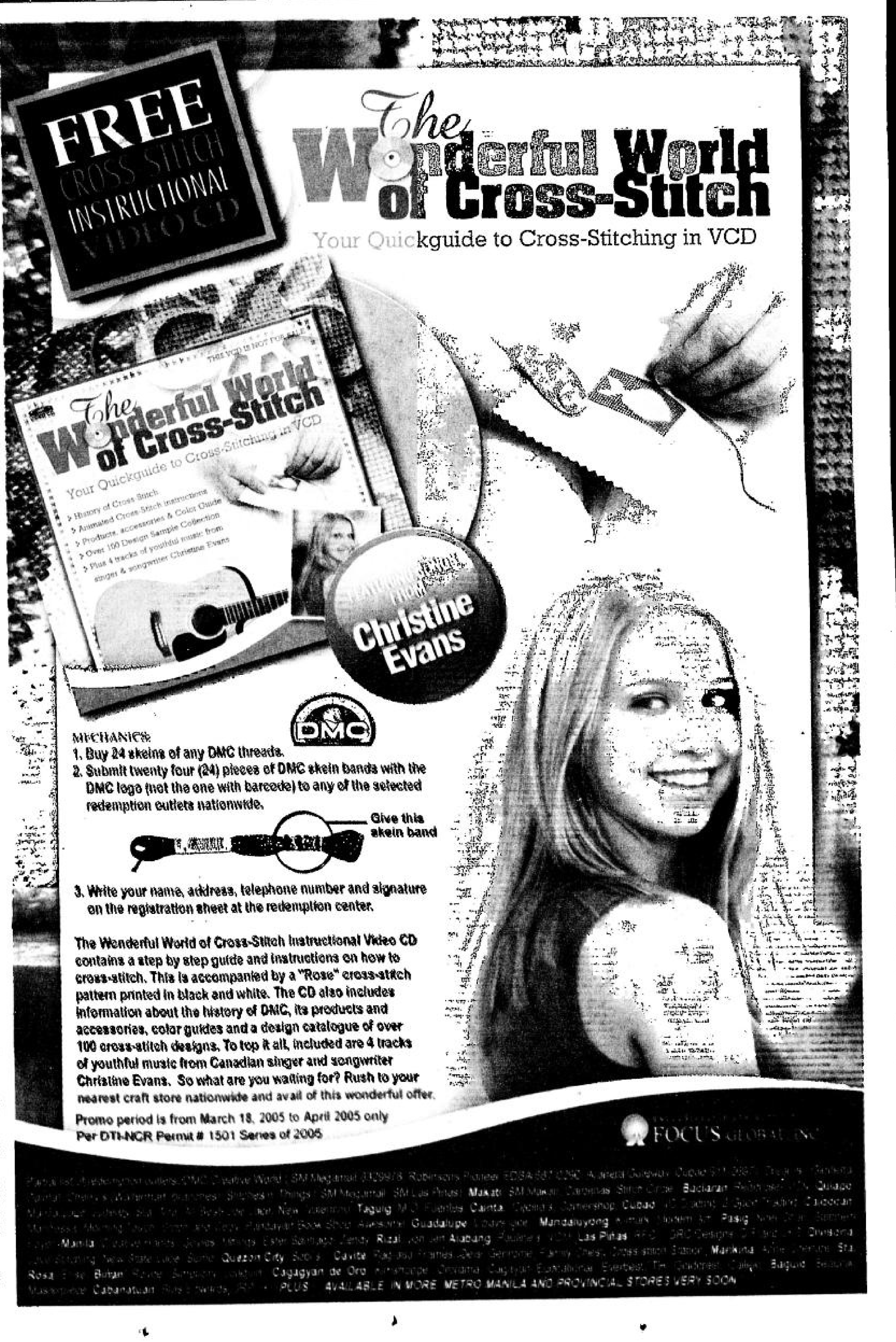
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MARCH 27, 2005

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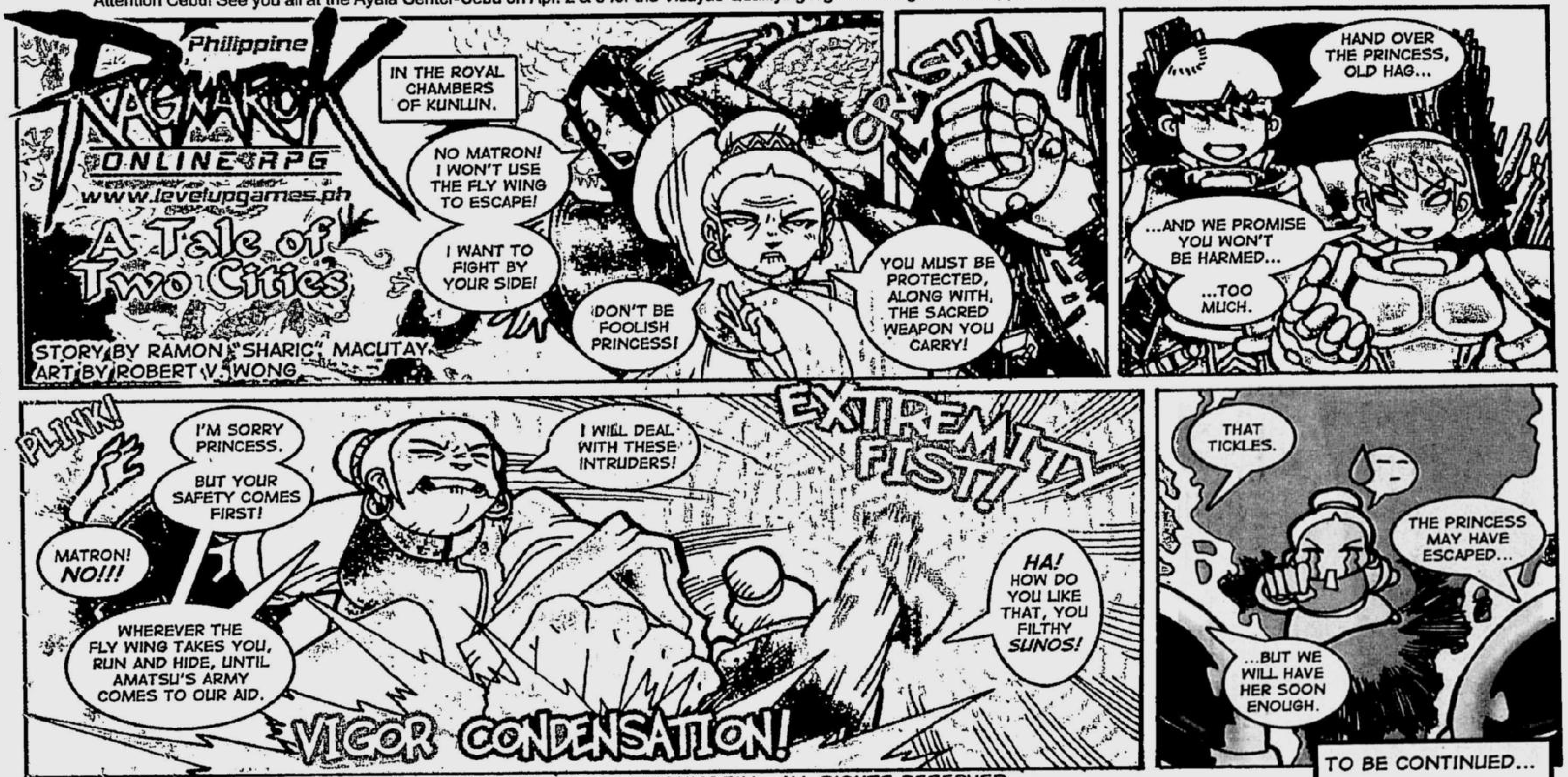
RAGNAROK

BY ROBERT WONG

Attention Cebu! See you all at the Ayala Center-Cebu on Apr. 2 & 3 for the Visayas Qualifying leg of the Ragnarok Philippine Championships 2005. Visit www.levelupgames.ph for more details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NO MATRON! I WON'T USE THE FLY WING TO ESCAPE!
I WANT TO FIGHT BY YOUR SIDE!
DON'T BE FOOLISH PRINCESS!
YOU MUST BE PROTECTED, ALONG WITH, THE SACRED WEAPON YOU CARRY!
CRASH!
HAND OVER THE PRINCESS, OLD HAG...
...AND WE PROMISE YOU WON'T BE HARMED...
...TOO MUCH.
PLINK!
I'M SORRY PRINCESS.
BUT YOUR SAFETY COMES FIRST!
MATRON! NO!!!
WHEREVER THE FLY WING TAKES YOU, RUN AND HIDE, UNTIL AMATSU'S ARMY COMES TO OUR AID.
I WILL DEAL WITH THESE INTRUDERS!
EXTREMITY FIST!
HA! HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, YOU FILTHY SUNOS!
VIGOR CONDENSATION!
THAT TICKLES.
THE PRINCESS MAY HAVE ESCAPED...
...BUT WE WILL HAVE HER SOON ENOUGH.
TO BE CONTINUED...

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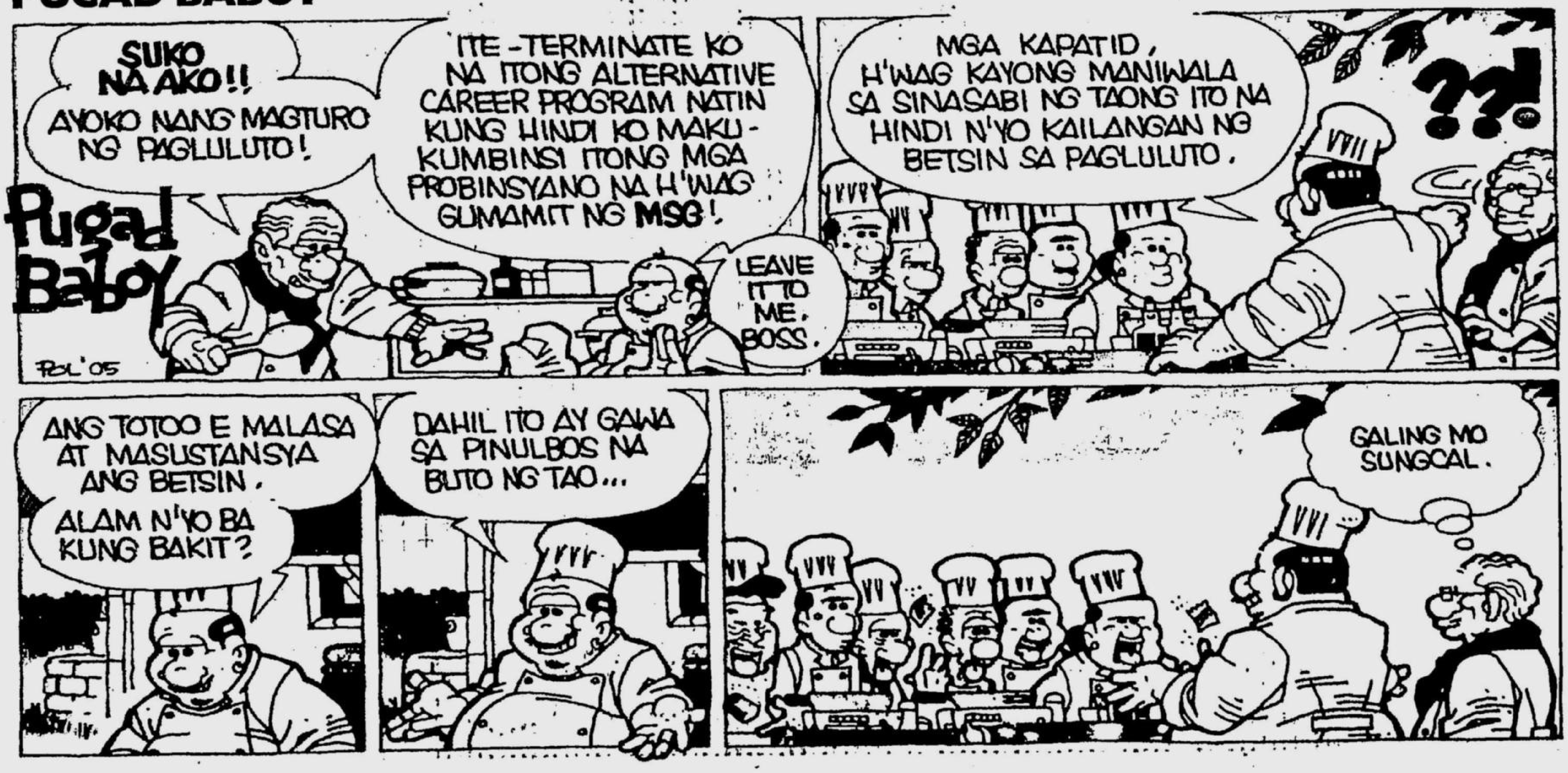
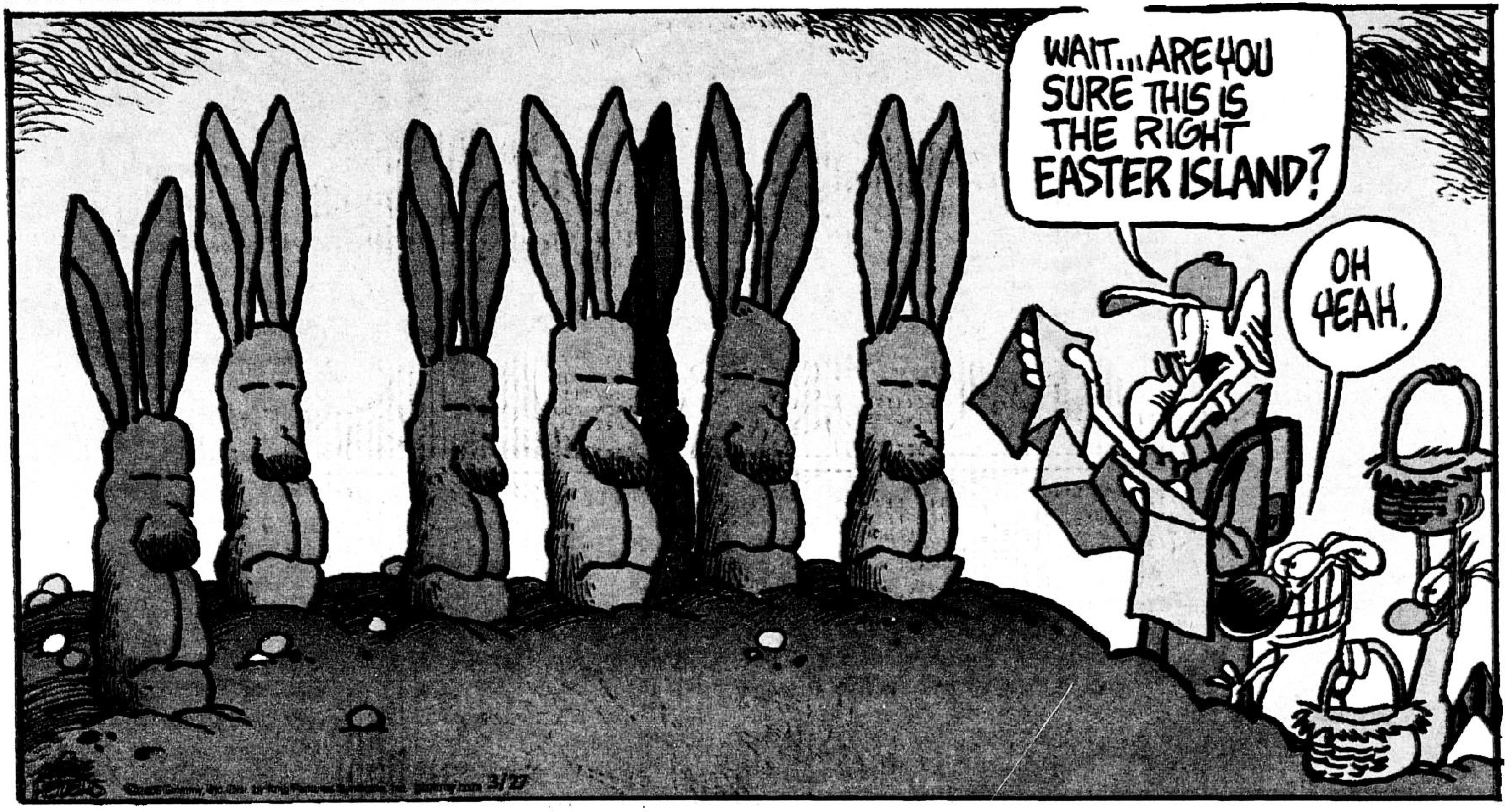
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


SUKO NA AKO!! AYOKO NANG MAGTURO NG PAGLULUTO!
Pugad Baboy
POL '05
ITE-TERMINATE KO NA ITONG ALTERNATIVE CAREER PROGRAM NATIN KUNG HINDI KO MAKUKUMBINSI ITONG MGA PROBINSYANO NA H'WAG GUMAMIT NG MSG!
LEAVE IT TO ME, BOSS.
MGA KAPATID, H'WAG KAYONG MANIWALA SA SINASABI NG TAONG ITO NA HINDI N'YO KAILANGAN NG BETSIN SA PAGLULUTO.
??!
ANG TOTOO E MALASA AT MASUSTANSYA ANG BETSIN.
ALAM N'YO BA KUNG BAKIT?
DAHIL ITO AY GAWA SA PINULBOS NA BUTO NG TAO...
GALING MO SUNGCAL.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WAIT... ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT EASTER ISLAND?
OH YEAH.
PETERS
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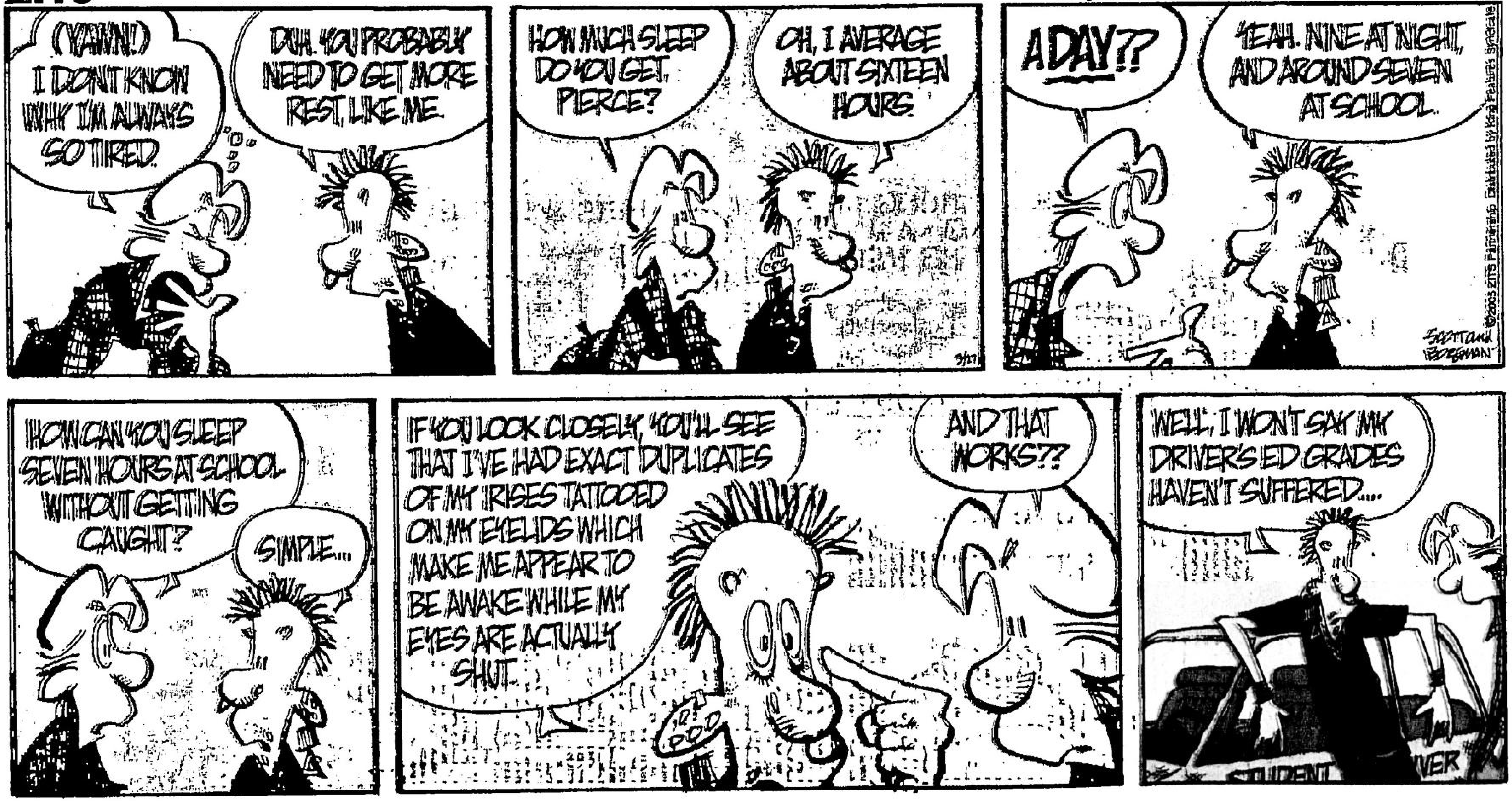
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


(YAWN!) I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M ALWAYS SO TIRED.
DUH. YOU PROBABLY NEED TO GET MORE REST, LIKE ME.
HOW MUCH SLEEP DO YOU GET, PIERCE?
OH, I AVERAGE ABOUT SIXTEEN HOURS.
3/27
A DAY??
YEAH. NINE AT NIGHT, AND AROUND SEVEN AT SCHOOL.
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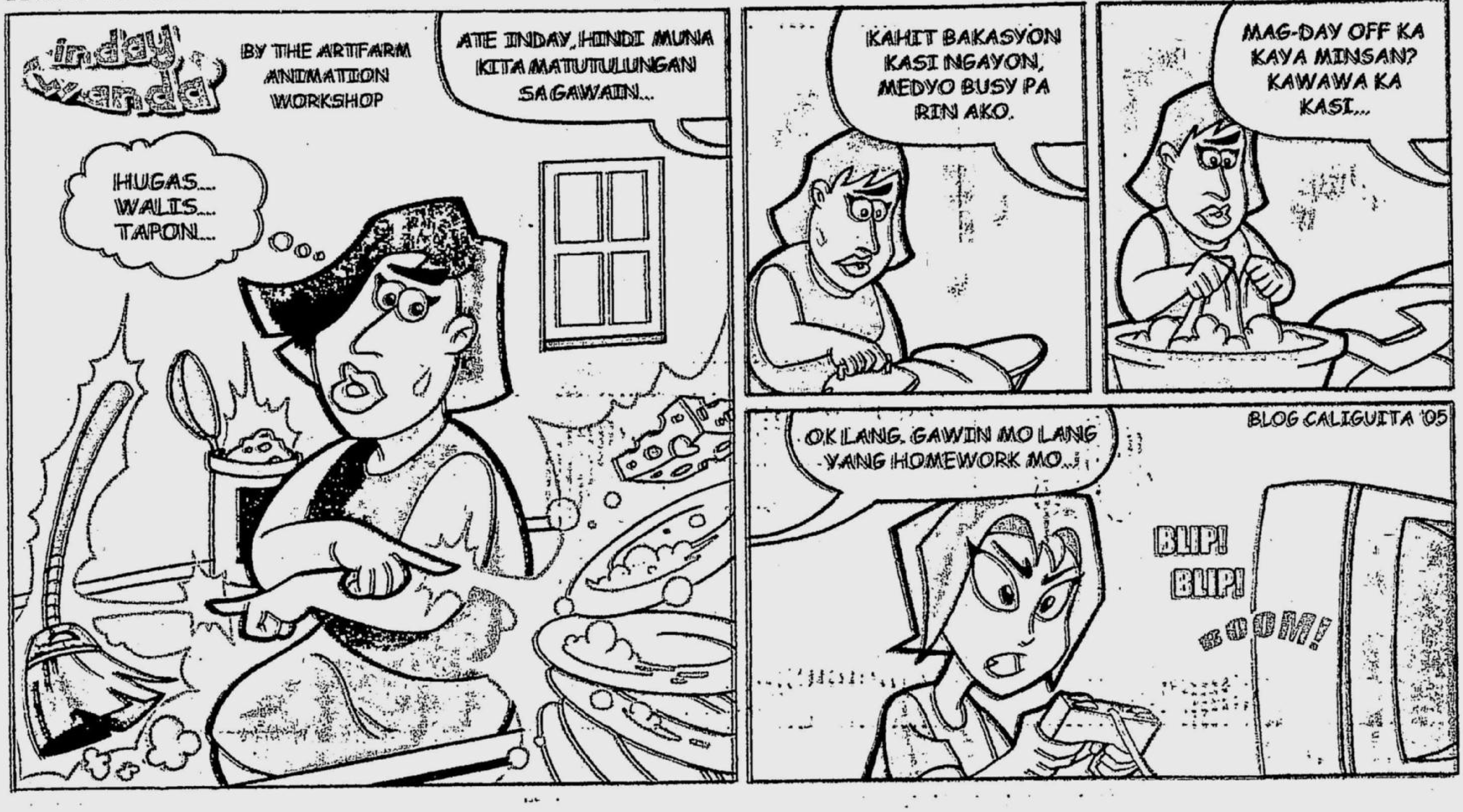
SCOTT and BORGMAN
HOW CAN YOU SLEEP SEVEN HOURS AT SCHOOL WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT?
SIMPLE...
IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY, YOU'LL SEE THAT I'VE HAD EXACT DUPLICATES OF MY IRISES TATTOOED ON MY EYELIDS WHICH MAKE ME APPEAR TO BE AWAKE WHILE MY EYES ARE ACTUALLY SHUT.
AND THAT WORKS??
WELL, I WON'T SAY MY DRIVER'S ED GRADES HAVEN'T SUFFERED....
STUDENT
VER

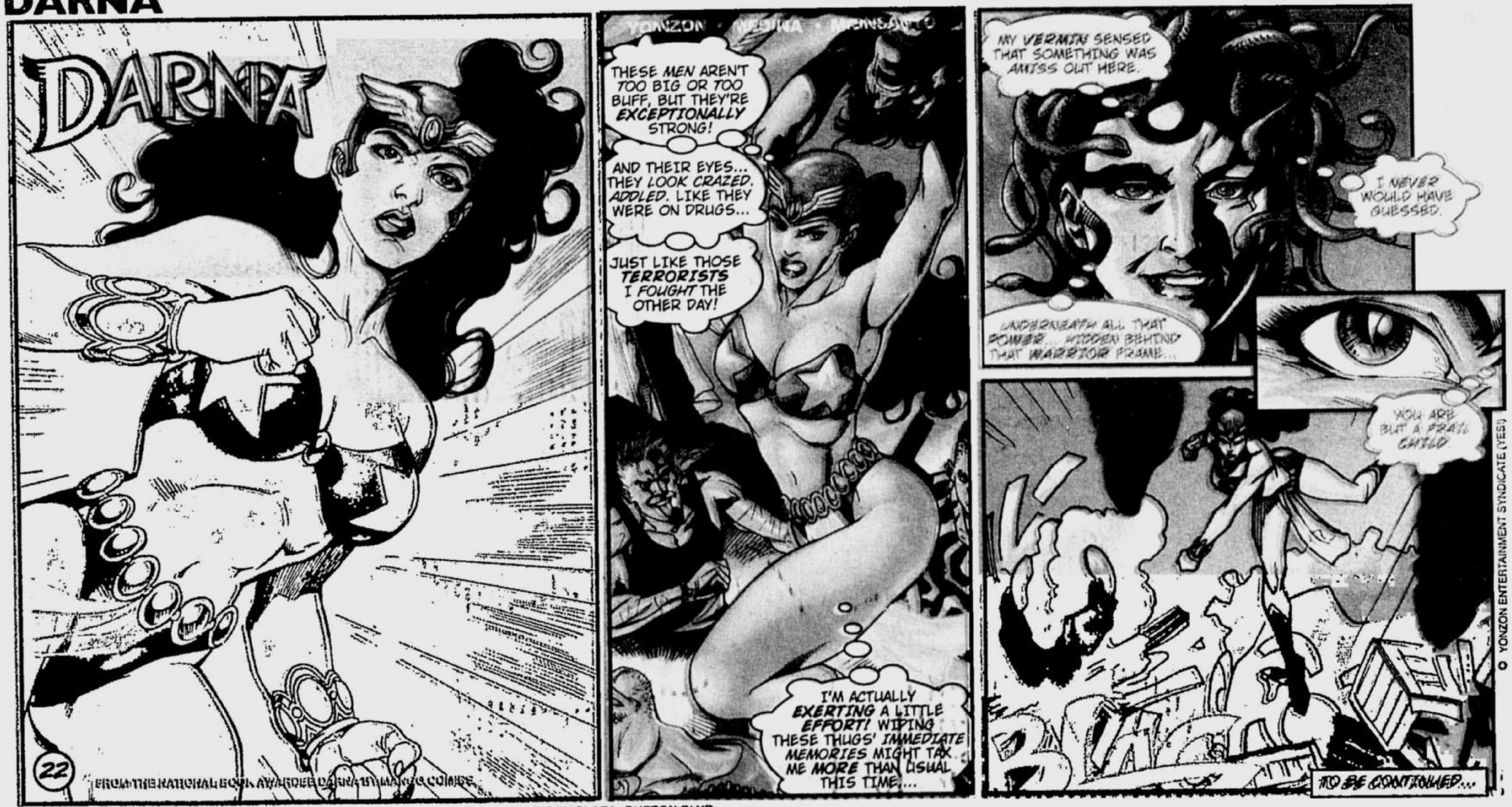
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


inday wanda
BY THE ARTFARM ANIMATION WORKSHOP
ATE INDAY, HINDI MUNA KITA MATUTULUNGAN SA GAWAIN...
HUGAS... WALIS... TAPON...
KAHIT BAKASYON KASI NGAYON, MEDYO BUSY PA RIN AKO.
MAG-DAY OFF KA KAYA MINSAN? KAWAWA KA KASI...
BLOG CALIGUITA '05
OK LANG. GAWIN MO LANG YANG HOMEWORK MO...
BLIP!
BLIP!
BOOM!

DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS


DARNA
22
FROM THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARDEE DARNA BY MANGO COMICS
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THESE MEN AREN'T TOO BIG OR TOO BUFF, BUT THEY'RE EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG!
AND THEIR EYES... THEY LOOK CRAZED. ADDLED. LIKE THEY WERE ON DRUGS...
JUST LIKE THOSE TERRORISTS I FOUGHT THE OTHER DAY!
I'M ACTUALLY EXERTING A LITTLE EFFORT! WIPING THESE THUGS' IMMEDIATE MEMORIES MIGHT TAX ME MORE THAN USUAL THIS TIME....
MY VERMIN SENSED THAT SOMETHING WAS AMISS OUT HERE.
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED.
UNDERNEATH ALL THAT POWER... HIDDEN BEHIND THAT WARRIOR FRAME...
YOU ARE BUT A FRAIL CHILD.
TO BE CONTINUED...

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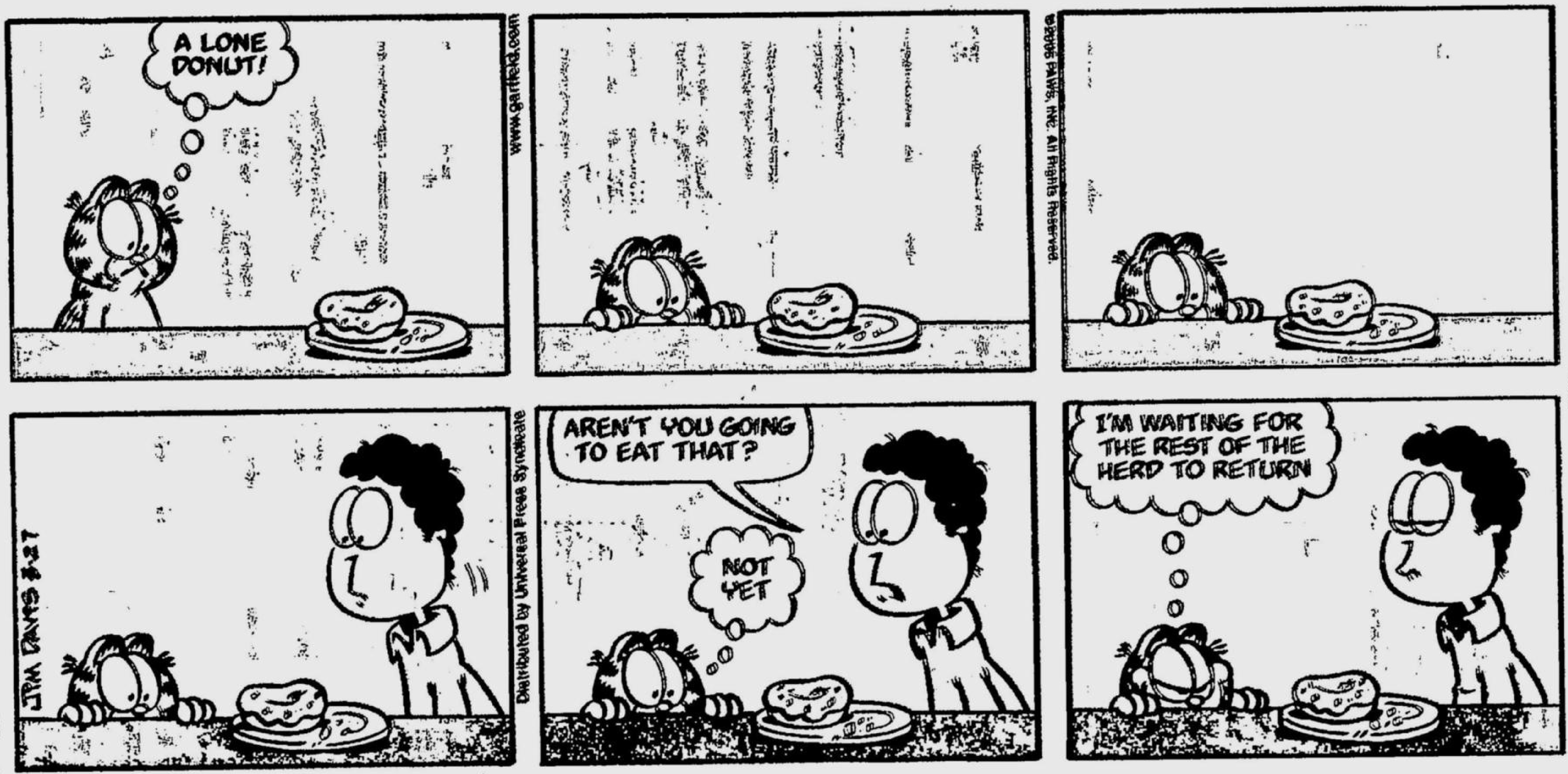
BY JIM DAVIS


A LONE DONUT!
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JIM DAVIS 3-27
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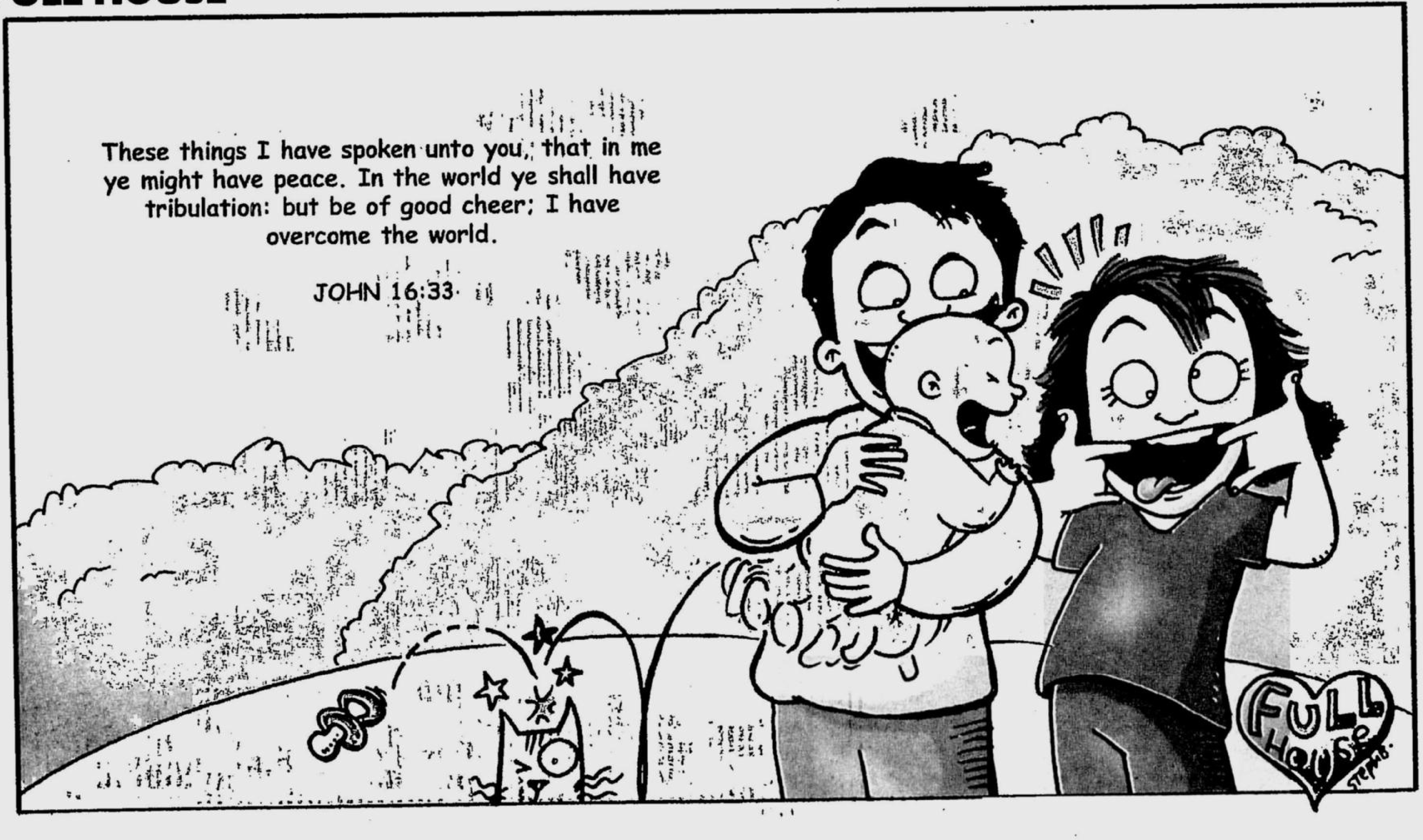
AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT THAT?
NOT YET
I'M WAITING FOR THE REST OF THE HERD TO RETURN

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO

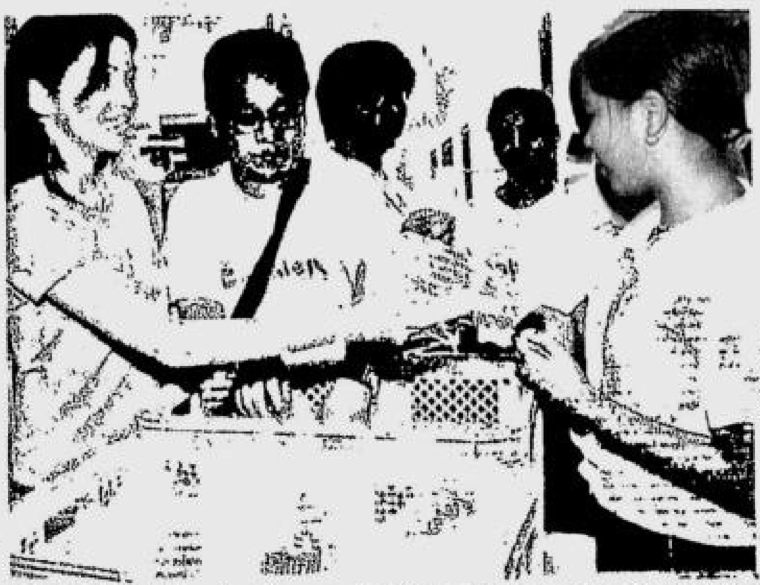


These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

JOHN 16:33

FULL HOUSE
STEPH B.

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT



DIANNE de la Fuente-Tiongson distributes food to some students of Kalawaan Elementary School, Pasig City.

STUDENTS of Kalawaan Elementary School

STUDENTS of Kalawaan Elementary School present a dance number.

Successful resto chain pays it forward

PASIG City Mayor Enteng Eusebio

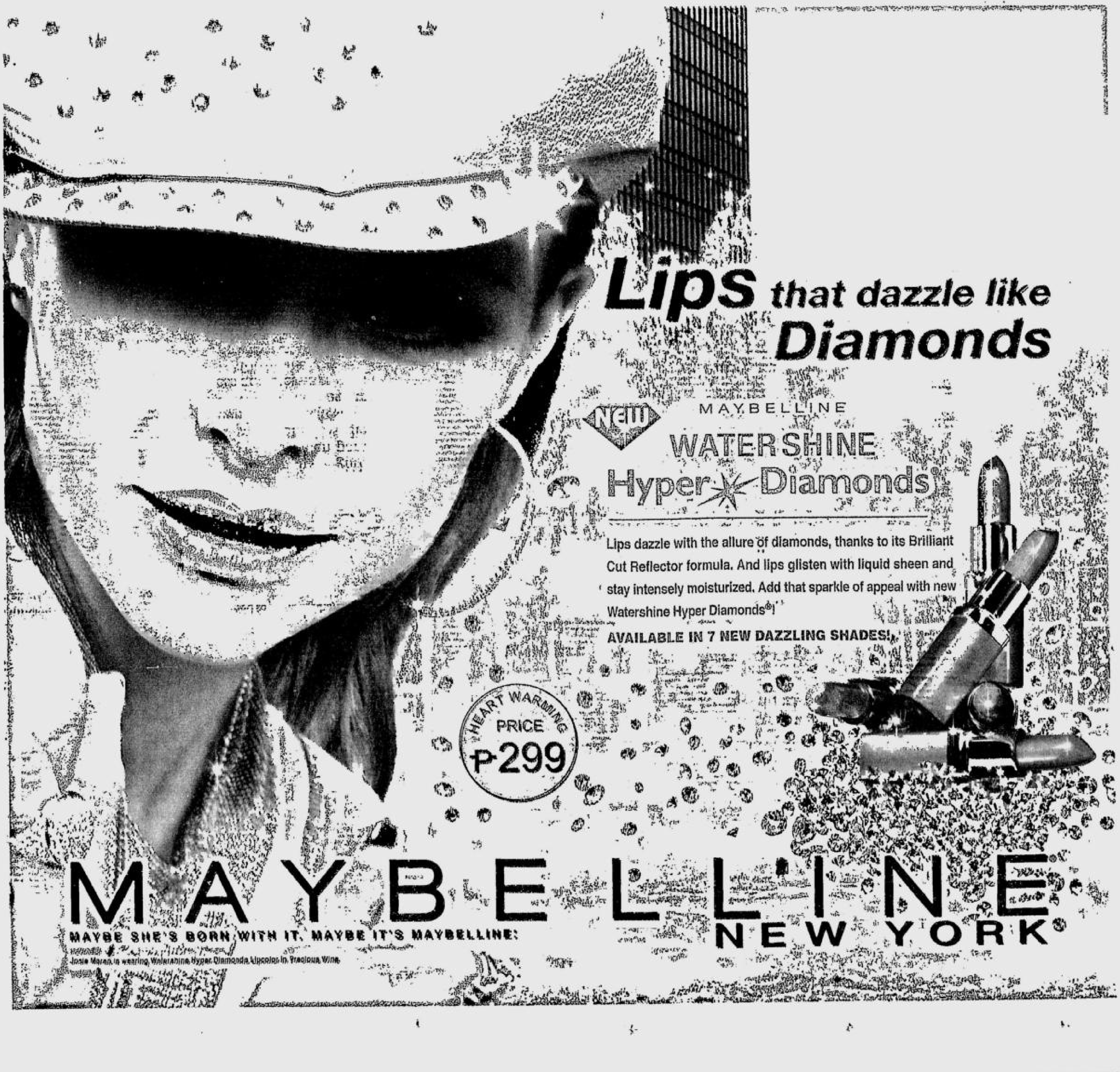
NOW on its eighth year, Cabalen para sa Kabataan is the Cabalen chain of restaurants' way of sharing its success and blessings with the less fortunate.

A pet project of Cabalen's founder Maritel Nievera-Shani, this year's beneficiary was the Paaralang Elementarya ng Kalawaan. Cabalen turned over two computer sets with printer and copier machine to the school. The students also went home with Cabalen-Pinoy Deli bags containing a dictionary and snack packs. Cabalen project coordinator Pearl Galicano spearheaded the affair together with school principal Rhodora Medina.

The gift-giving activity and turnover was headed by Dori Shani, Ian Tiongson and his wife, Dianne de la Fuente-Tiongson. Among the VIP guests were Mayor Vicente Eusebio, Vice Mayor Rosalio "Yoyong" Martirez, lawyer Roman Romulo, Freddie Santos, Dr. Florentina Lizano, Dr. Abella Macarandan, and Dr. Pacita Paloma together with the barangay councilmen.

IAN Tiongson of Cabalen gives the Certificate of Donation to Rhodora Medina of Kalawaan Elementary School.

PHOTOS: RUDY ESPERAS



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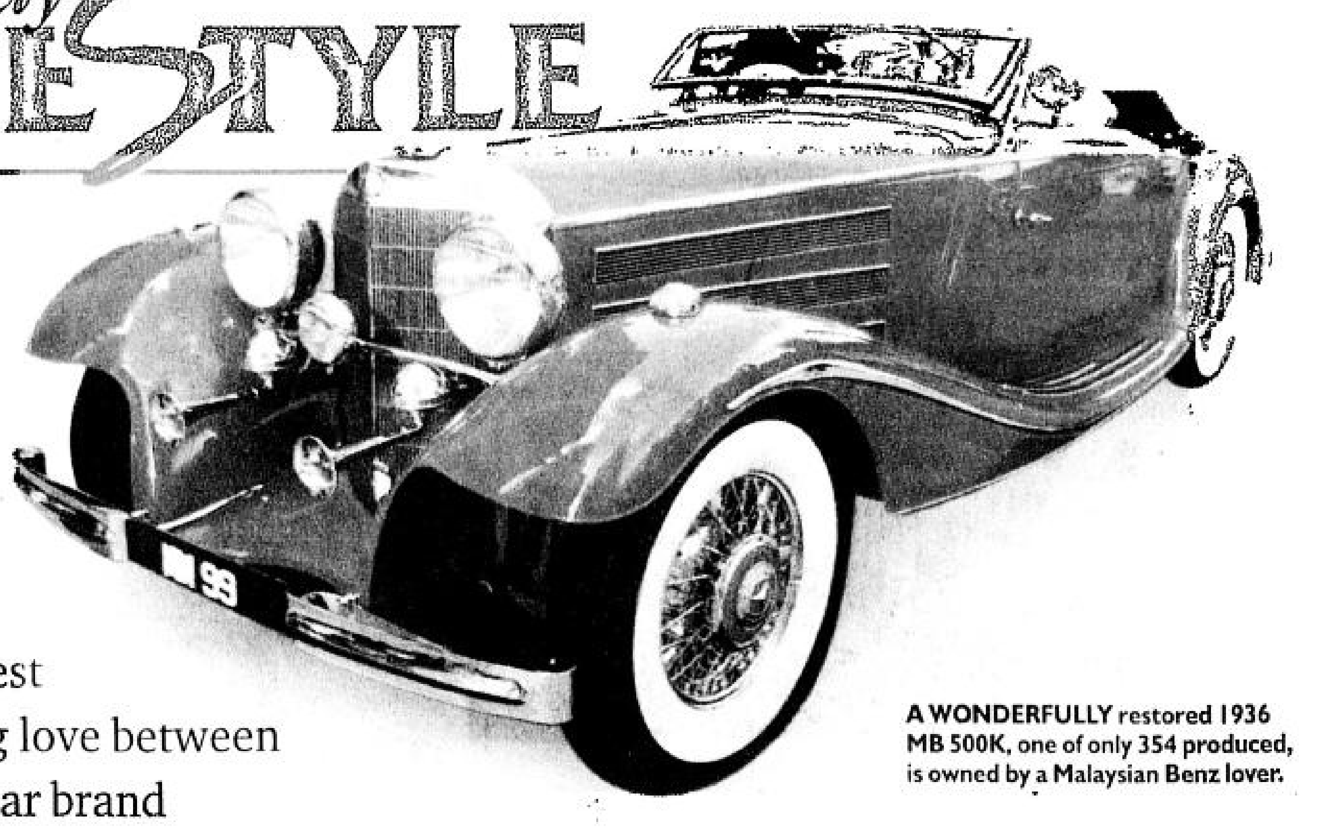
Family jewels on wheels

The 'Mercedes-Benz & Me' photo story contest celebrates the enduring love between families and a trusted car brand

Text and photos by Allison W. Lopez



A WONDERFULLY restored 1936 MB 500K, one of only 354 produced, is owned by a Malaysian Benz lover.

IT was a Japanese banker's faith that jumpstarted it for car enthusiast and architect Manny Dimaculangan. The banker didn't want somebody who'd only make money out of the classic car so he entrusted Dimaculangan with the stewardship of a 1956 two-door Mercedes-Benz roadster.

Dimaculangan immediately worked on the vintage vehicle's overhaul with the assistance of automobile restorer Martin de los Reyes. It wasn't without difficulty, however, as it took two years of sourcing and spending for parts in other countries, sometimes even in junkyards.

But when one is driven with passion, nothing seems impossible. In the end, it was Dimaculangan's own faith in the Mercedes-Benz brand that breathed life back to the silver 190SL, now among the few surviving units in Asia. And it's not a matter of mere survival, mind you. The car looks spanking new, and it roars on the quiet streets of the South when he takes it out for a drive—top down—every Sunday. What a sight it must be!

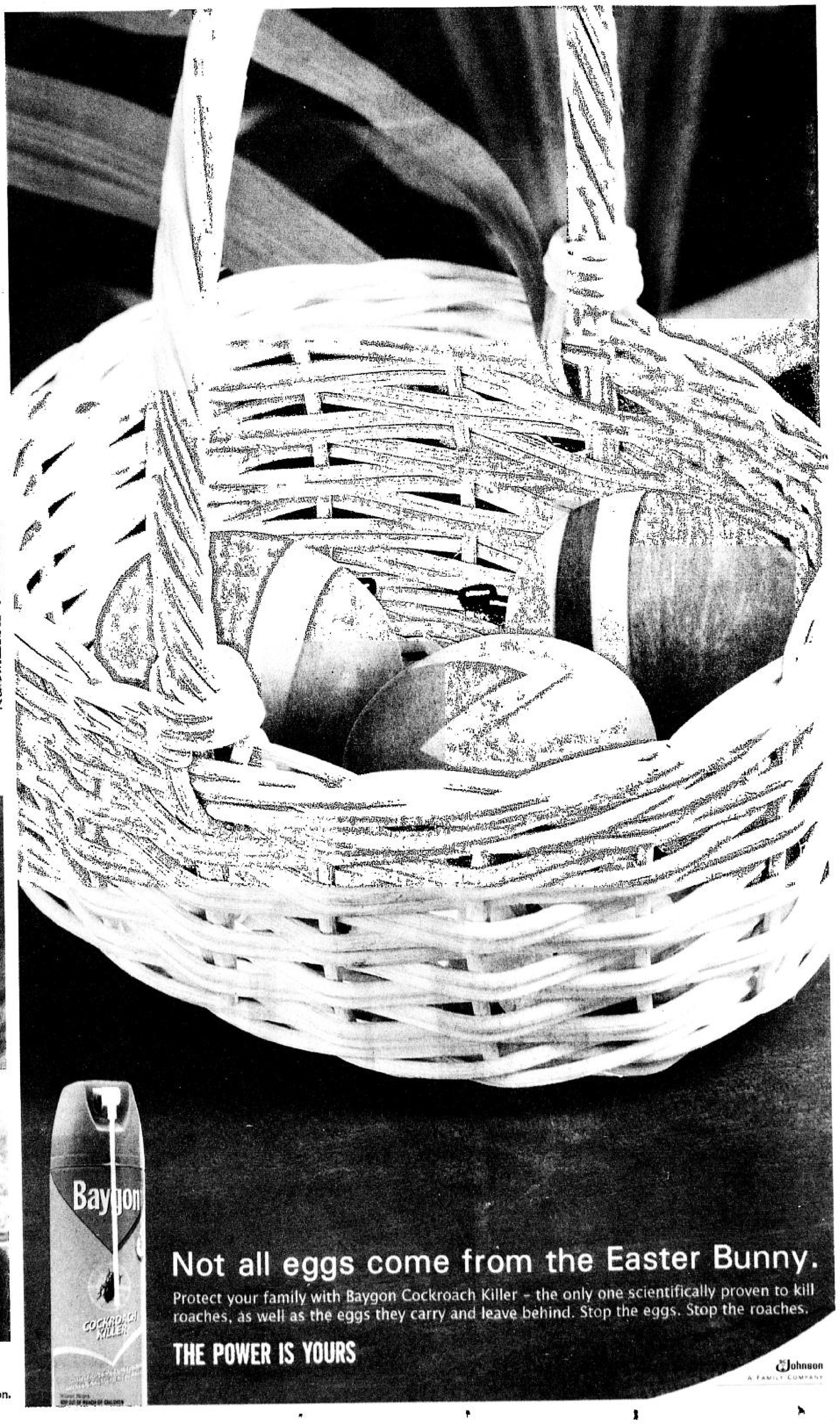
Dimaculangan and his stunning 190SL's tale was just one of the many "stories of faith" heard from all over the world at the regional launch of the "Mercedes-Benz & Me" campaign in Singapore.

Presented in fitting regal fashion at the grand Fullerton Hotel on March 1, the campaign aims to encourage MB owners to cele-

FAMILY/ M2

JUTTA Benz (above) relives history by driving a replica of the first automobile—the Patent Motor Car invented by her ancestor, German engineer and Benz & Co. founder Karl Benz (below).

THE FIRST MB story of faith must have belonged to Bertha Benz, who believed so much in her husband's Motor Car that she took it for a test drive without his permission.



Not all eggs come from the Easter Bunny.

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THE POWER IS YOURS

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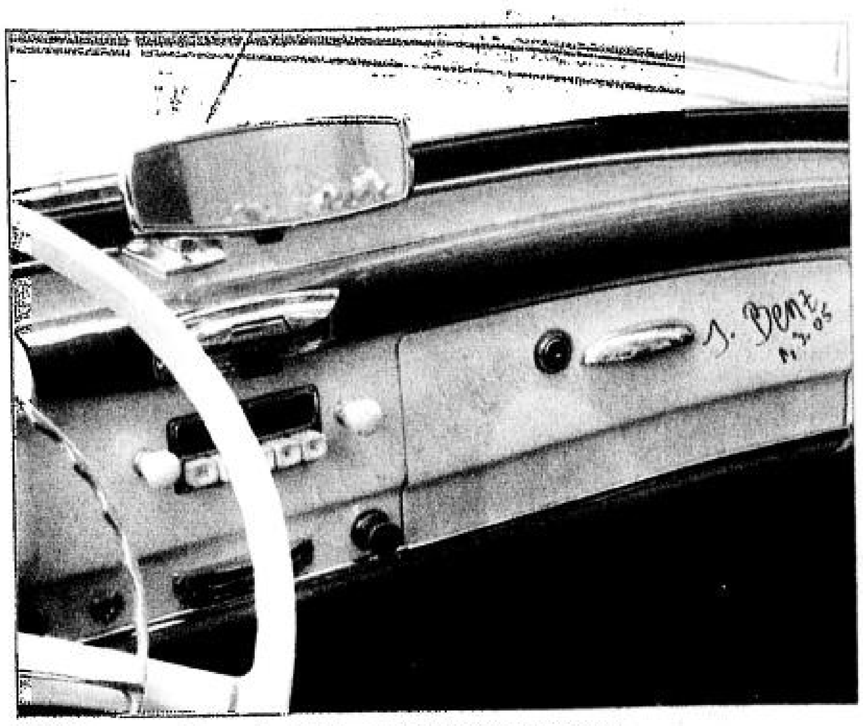


"THIS car stays in my family," says Manny Dimaculangan, with son Santi and his silver 1956 190SL, proudly bearing a Philippine plate number (right). Above photo shows the priceless detail on the car's dashboard—the signature of Jutta, the last Benz descendant.

Family jewels on wheels

PHOTOS TAKEN WITH A CANON IXUS 500

From page M1

brate their relationship with MB, and to reinforce the values of prestige, heritage, reliability and durability that Benz is known for.

And through the "Mercedes-Benz & Me" photo story contest, more stories of enduring passion and love for the brand will be known.

"In the 'Mercedes-Benz & Me' campaign, we focus on the bond that is shared between our brand and our customers... Memories of Mercedes-Benz cars are shared by people all over the world—from movie stars to baseball moms, who share a unique relationship with their Mercedes-Benz. It is more than a car. It is a vehicle of dreams, of stories... An heirloom (and) a faithful friend," said Dr. Rainer Thiel, president of DaimlerChrysler in Southeast Asia.

DaimlerChrysler is the company that owns the Benz, Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge car brands.

To join the contest, participants must submit a write-up describing their special relationship with their Mercedes-Benz, along with a photo taken with the car. Good thing is, you need not be an owner to be able to join. Prizes include MB collectibles for local winners and a four-day trip to Stuttgart, Germany for the regional winner *(for details, visit www.mercedes-benz.com.ph)*.

Stories of faith

Heartwarming stories like these were shown in a TV commercial on the Mercedes-Benz experience. This included a German government chauffeur and the Pullman limousine that carried 116 heads of state; an American family that survived an otherwise deadly collision aboard their sturdy Benz; an old couple who traveled more than a million miles in their 1970 280 SE; and Singapore's very own Khoo family, which has proudly owned 19 models in a span of 50 years.

But the most faithful lover of them all must be Jutta Benz, great-granddaughter of Karl Benz, founder of the famed motor brand.

Jutta, 63, spoke affectionately at the Singapore launch about growing up in a family of innovators. She related what must be the first Benz story of faith—that of her great-grandmother, Bertha, who road-tested in 1888 the three-wheeler patent motor car Bertha's husband Karl invented.

This came at a time when the German engineer had doubts about the feasibility of his motor car and the public was skeptical about its roadworthiness as well.

Bertha set off on a 180-km drive on the motor car with her two sons—without any license, and without her husband's knowledge. Except for minor kinks the trio encountered, the trip from Mannheim to Pforzheim was considered a major success. Thanks to this woman's courage, the Patent Motor Car became the world's first automobile.

Jutta also proudly showed the family heirloom—a ring handed down to the eldest male son, but was given to her since she had no brother.

The ring serves as an heirloom and a responsibility to be "the connection to the family," said Jutta. As the last living descendant carrying the Benz name, Jutta will soon hand over the ring to the Benz Museum in Ladenburg, Germany.

It's far from over for this spirited lady, however. In Singapore on the nearby Cavenagh Bridge, Jutta relived her great-grandma's experimental spree by gamely driving a replica of the patent motor car.

Exquisite showcase

Outside the hotel was a showcase of exquisitely maintained vintage MB cars, their polished coats glinting in the heat of the noon sun. On the other corner were MB's current models and its newest innovation—the Fuel Cell Car that uses hydrogen technology.

"These new models provide a greater choice of vehicles to people who have never had an experience with the Mercedes-Benz brand... In the near future, our customers can expect to add the new CLS, GST and CST models, not only to their A-list of sought-after cars, but also to their family photo albums for posterity," said Dr. Thiel.

CATS Motors Inc. president Felix Ang said Pinoy MB fans should expect the latest models in the third quarter of the year.

A current model W220 S-class sedan was elegantly dressed up as a wedding car to demonstrate exactly what Dr. Thiel noted proudly—that eight out of 10 engaged couples in Asia choose the Benz as their wedding car.

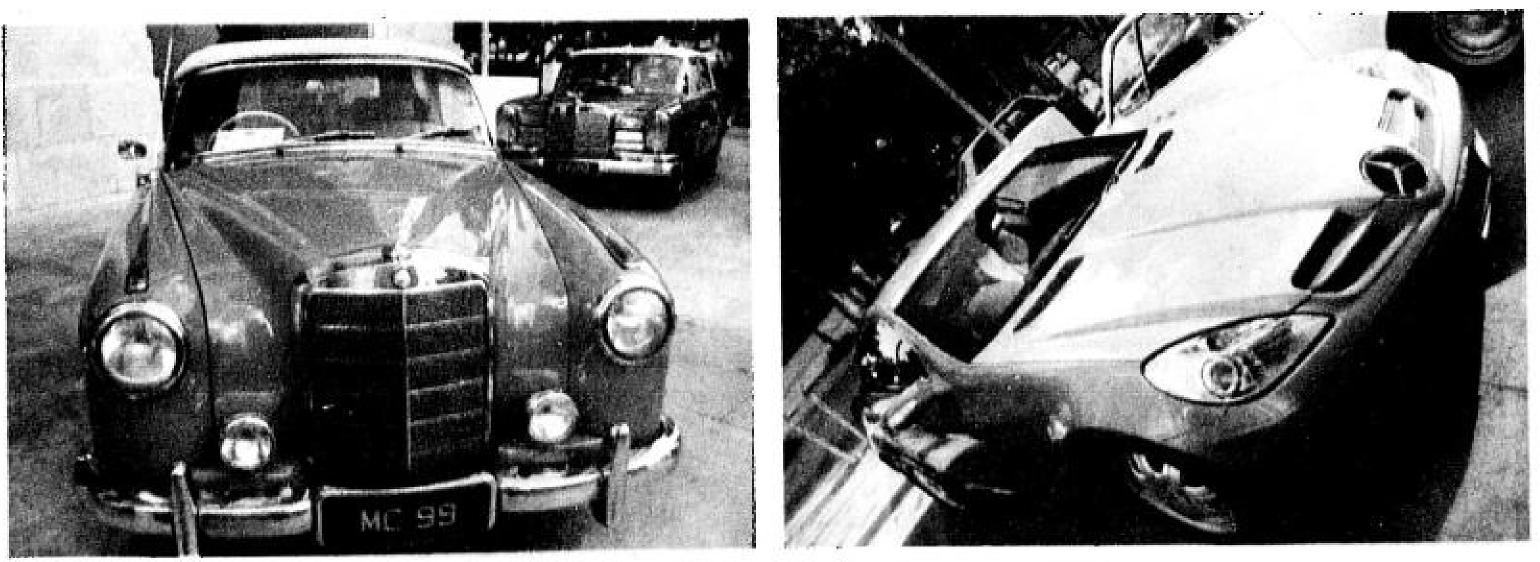
"Loyalty is synonymous with Mercedes-Benz. The brand has come to symbolize a beautiful and special relationship... What better car to herald the beginning of a lifelong journey of love and happiness than a Mercedes?"

Entry forms to the "Mercedes-Benz & Me" photo story contest are available at the CATS Motors offices at Edsa Greenhills, San Juan; and Rizal Drive, Bonifacio Global City in Taguig

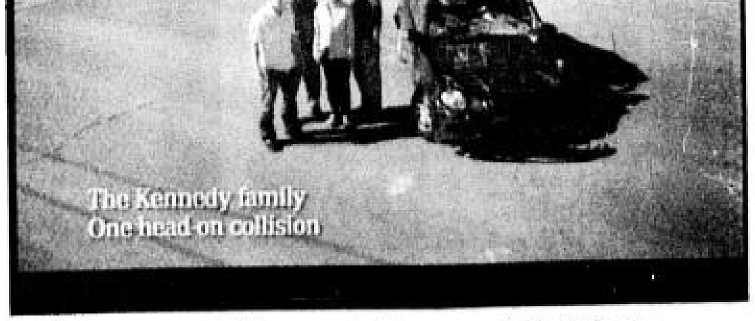
EIGHT out of 10 couples in Asia choose the elegant Mercedes-Benz as their bridal car.

FELIX Ang, president of CATS Motors Inc., exclusive distributor of Mercedes-Benz in the Philippines, with Jutta Benz

DR. Rainer Thiel, president of DaimlerChrysler in Southeast Asia



FINE showcase of vintage and modern "Chedengs" outside Fullerton Hotel in Singapore



MERCEDES-BENZ & Me campaign's commercial includes an American family that survived what could have been a deadly collision if they hadn't been in a Benz.

Should his girlfriend get a second chance?

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I am 24 years old and I am graduating soon from the university. My girlfriend and I are about to celebrate our third anniversary and I don't know if I want to get married. So many things have happened to us. First, she graduated ahead of me because I had to stop schooling for three years.

When she started to work, she fell for someone who was already married and got her pregnant. I was with her when she took her pregnancy test. She asked me while waiting for the result if there was another chance for us if she got rid of the baby. I said that was not possible.

Before this, I'd been extremely devoted to her. All my dreams and plans were all geared toward our life together in the future.

She aborted the baby the next day without telling anyone. She told me that whether I believe it or not, she was "in love with me and would end her life if she lost me." I don't know if that was a threat or just her way of blackmailing me to stick around.

Or is it also possible that she really loves me? She's leaving in a few weeks to work abroad and she's proposed that we get married soon. What should I do? I love her but I don't trust her feelings for me anymore.

CONFUSED WARRIOR

From the little history you shared, it's apparent that your girlfriend is quite vulnerable. She fell for a married guy a few months after they met and even got herself pregnant.

Her whole being is understandably full of insecurities and uncertainties—having just had an abortion and now going away for a new job in a foreign country. This marriage proposal to you—you who held her hand and stayed with her at her darkest hour—is her way of staying grounded while still in a very confused and ambivalent state.

She is clinging tightly on to you because you've been a tried-and-tested anchor to her. But agreeing to marry her now is not a very good idea.

Let her go abroad and be away from you for a while. Let her really miss your worth—and allow her to prove her worth to you. Give time a chance to heal wounds... and decide whether you're really meant for each other.

Please—do not compound a problem with another problem.

Bothered by hubby's infidelity

I am 33 years old, with two children and was happily married for six years until my husband died of a heart attack.

He has been gone for two years now, but his infidelity still tortures me. My husband was a tall, good-looking man and he was the object of affection of so many women when he was still single.

We were such a great team as husband and wife. I thought he loved me when he was still alive because he was always there for me. But I am doubting everything about him now.

I learned of his infidelity when I was eight months pregnant with my youngest child. The other woman was a housemaid who was brought to my house by my mother-in-law who took pity on her after she was fired by her former employer, my sister-in-law.

There was nothing special about her, except that she wore very short shorts and shirts with plunging necklines. It was my neighbor who showed me a letter written by this woman, stating how she finally found the perfect man—in my husband.

She confessed she was "in love" with him. When I told my husband about it, he assured me it wasn't his problem if she flirted with him, since he was a man and had nothing to lose.

When he died, I discovered they really had an affair, though short-lived. The woman hooked up afterward with a married cousin of my husband and even became pregnant by him.

I had already forgiven my husband, but not the woman. What should I do when our paths cross? Should I confront her or just let karma take its course?

STRESSED WIDOW

Your husband's soul has rested and been quiet for two years now. Why can't you? Stop obsessing about the other woman. It is a worthless and pointless exercise.

When your paths cross, go the other way, or let her pass if it's a narrow alleyway. Unless you two are cooped in a stuck elevator, the world is wide enough for the two of you to ignore each other and go your separate trails.

You yourself said you had a happy marriage. So be it. Savor it. Let it warm your lonely heart when you need it. Cover your ears when you hear gossip about your husband's infidelity.

Most of all, don't encourage it! All bets, debts, payments, records, files, etc. get closed when a person dies. Let everything about your husband's past lie buried with him.

He can't hurt you anymore. You're still young and have a long, bright future ahead of you. Just mooove on!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," Monday to Friday from 7:15 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on dwBR 104.3 FM*

> Let her go abroad and be away from you for a while. Give time a chance to heal wounds and decide whether you're really meant for each other

Summer workshops for kids

CARE Center for Early Learning (formerly Creative Edge Preschool) will be offering a wide variety of summer workshops for children aged 2-12 beginning April 11. These workshops include:

- Tinker Tykes—the perfect "summer camp" for kids aged 3-6 years, offering a lot of productive, educational and fun activities
- Toddlers' Playgroup—for toddlers aged 1.8-3 who are already looking for small adventures
- Storybean Garden—an experiential reading workshop for children aged 4-8 years involving literacy-based activities
- Kitchen Wizards—cooking and baking classes for kids aged 5 and up
- Computer Explorers—tutorial sessions for future computer techies using a wide variety of software. For ages 4 and up
- Quest Kids—Science experiments and field trips to encourage young scientists aged 5 and up
- Twinkletoes—Dance classes for boys and girls aged 4-12 to develop grace and finesse.
- Art Camp—Future artists aged 6 and up dabble in arts and crafts using a variety of media.
- Tiny Tunes—Voice and piano lessons for musicians aged 8 and up
- Summer Tutorials—Remedial and advanced academic lessons for students aged 5 and up
- Smart Yayas' School—Seminar-workshop for children's caregivers to guide them in appropriate child care.

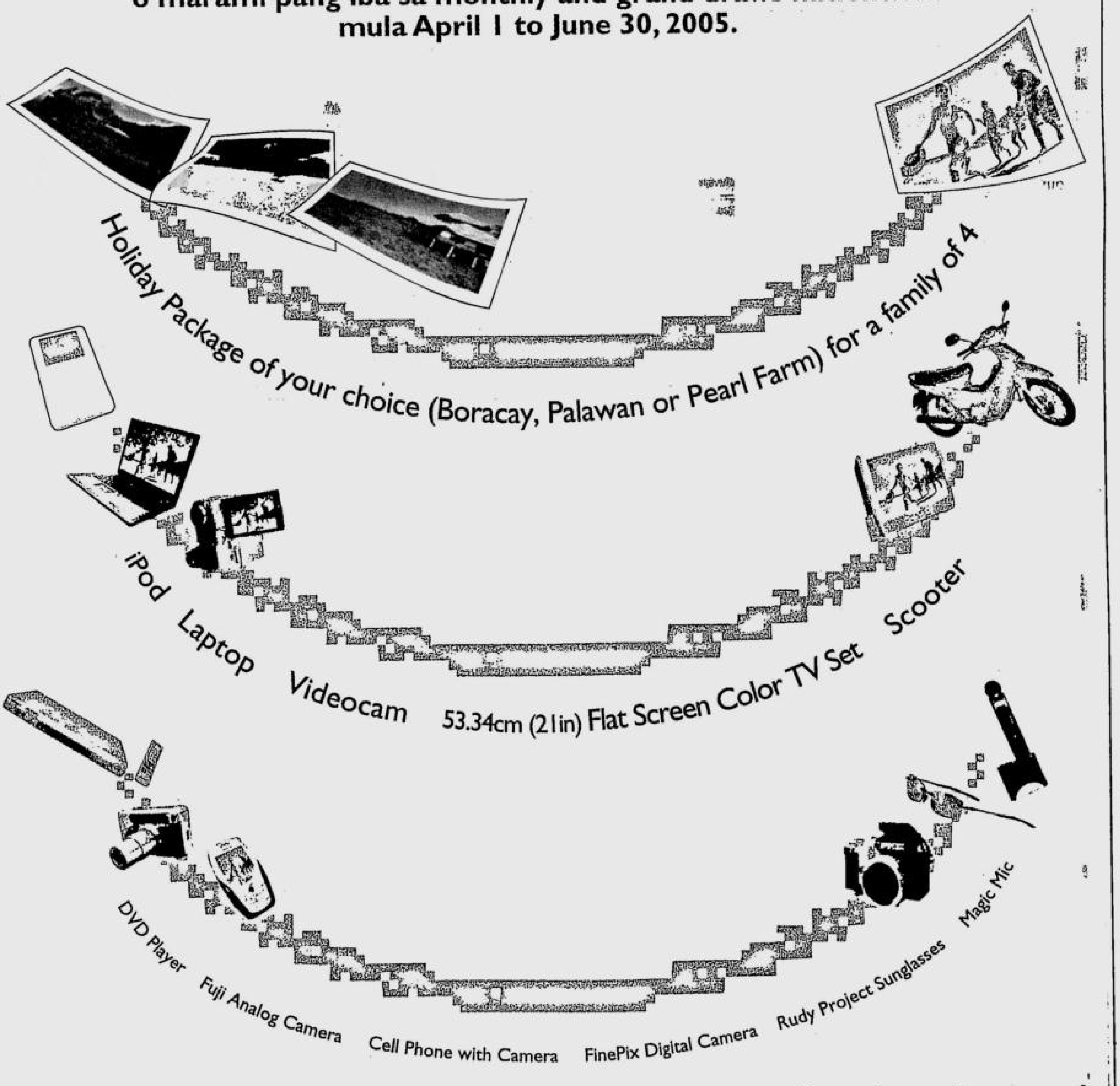
Call 9284847, 4165476, 9202943 or 0916-6171976; or visit 28 Ricardo St., Carmel I Subd., QC.

Dahil dala namin ang puso mo, ngayon mapapangiti ka sa

TEAM LBC HARI NG PADALA! digiprint

PANALO ANG IYONG NGITI!
RAFFLE PROMO

Puwede kang manalo ng Holiday Trip, Camera, Cell Phone, iPod
o marami pang iba sa monthly and grand draws nationwide
mula April 1 to June 30, 2005.



www.digiprint.com.ph

Pa-develop na!

MECHANICS

1. The customers shall have their rolls of Film developed, printed and delivered by LBC or Digital images printed and delivered by Digiprint nationwide from April 1 to June 30, 2005.
2. A customer is entitled to one raffle entry for every P200.00 worth of prints with delivery. This does NOT include Merchandise orders such as Mugs, Shirt, Photo Cards, Calendars, Framed Photos, Instant Prints (in the branches) & Scanning Services.
3. The pre-printed tracking number on the official receipt will serve as the transaction number.
4. Deadlines of entries are as follows:
   - April 30, 2005, 1st Monthly Draw
   - May 31, 2005, 2nd Monthly Draw
   - June 30, 2005, Grand Draw
5. Raffling will be done by Electronic Raffle Draw at the LBC head office located at the LBC Hangar, General Aviation Center Domestic Airport Compound, Pasay City in the presence of a DTI representative. Draw dates are as follows:
   - May 3, 2005, 1st Monthly draw
   - June 2, 2005, 2nd Monthly draw
   - July 4, 2005, Grand Draw
6. Prizes that will be given away for each monthly draw are as follows:

Grand Prize:
- **(3) Holiday Packages for 4 to either Boracay, Palawan or Pearl Farm**(1 year validity)
  - 3 days/2 nights Deluxe room
  - 2 breakfasts in the resort (starting on the 2nd day)
  - Round trip land and boat transfers
  - Round trip airfares via Asian Spirit

Minor Prizes:
- **(3) Rudy Project Sunglasses**
- **(2) Cell Phones w/ cameras**
- **(1) Magic Mic**

Major Prizes:
- **(1) 20 GB IPod**
- **(1) Laptop**

1st MONTHLY PRIZES:
Major Prizes
- **(1) Videocam**
- **(1) 53.34cm(21in) Flat Screen Color TV set**
- **(1) Scooter**

Minor Prizes
- **(3) Fuji Analog Cameras**
- **(2) FinePix Digital Cameras** (at least 3.0 MP)
- **(2) DVD Players**

2nd MONTHLY PRIZES
Major Prizes
- **(1) Videocam**
- **(1) 53.34cm(21in) Flat Screen Color TV set**
- **(1) Scooter**

Minor Prizes
- **(3) Fuji Analog Cameras**
- **(2) FinePix Digital Cameras** (at least 3.0 MP)
- **(2) DVD Players**

7. Non-winning entries per draw will be qualified in the succeeding monthly and grand draws.
8. The decision of LBC/Digiprint with the approval of DTI is final.
9. Prizes are transferable but cannot be converted to cash.
10. A winner can only win once during the entire promo period. In case a name is drawn more than once in each draw, the winner gets the prize with the higher value. The prize of lower value is forfeited in favor of the next entry drawn at random.
11. Winners must agree to have their names and address published in a leading newspaper.
12. Metro Manila & provincial winners will be notified via LBC courier service and the names of winners will be posted at www.digiprint.com.ph. Provincial winners must bring their notification letter to the nearest LBC branch with at least 2 valid ID's, photocopies of the valid ID's and the Official Receipt of the winning transaction.
13. The LBC/Digiprint Associate will dispatch the aforementioned documents to Digiprint Marketing c/o Ruel Barte or Nena Wuthrich, Hangar for verification.
14. After verification, LBC/Digiprint will deliver the prizes to the provincial winners.
15. Metro Manila winners should claim their prize with their notification letter, at least 2 valid ID's, photocopies of the valid ID's, and the Official Receipt of the winning transaction at the LBC head office located at the LBC Hangar, General Aviation Center Domestic Airport Compound, Pasay City.
16. All prizes must be claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification call and registered mail (whichever comes last). Prizes unclaimed after 60 days will be forfeited in favor of Digiprint with prior DTI approval.
18. Winners of the Holiday Packages will be contacted for further arrangements.
19. Winners of the Holiday Packages will have an option to choose their destination from those places listed in the Promo.
20. All winners below 18 years of age must be accompanied by their parent/legal guardian and both minor and parent/legal guardian must present valid identification.
21. Employees of LBC, W Network, Inc., PLW, Inc., and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promo. Entries with transactions of over or under-exposed rolls of film are also disqualified.

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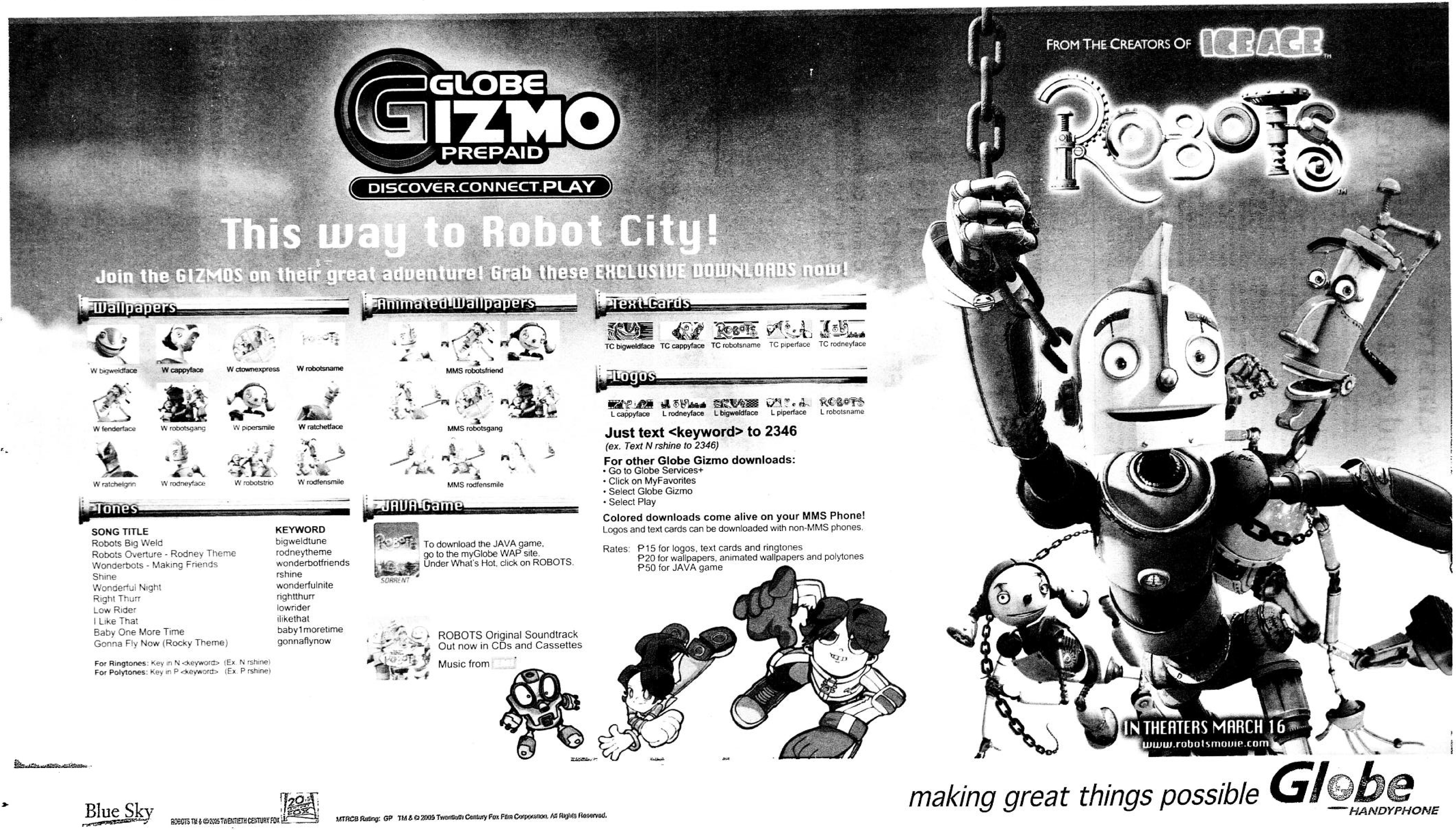
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0658 Series of 2005



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TC bigweldface
TC cappyface
TC robotsname
TC piperface
TC rodneyface

Logos

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L rodneyface
L bigweldface
L piperface
L robotsname

Tones

SONG TITLE	KEYWORD
Robots Big Weld	bigweldtune
Robots Overture - Rodney Theme	rodneytheme
Wonderbots - Making Friends	wonderbotfriends
Shine	rshine
Wonderful Night	wonderfulnite
Right Thurr	rightthurr
Low Rider	lowrider
I Like That	ilikethat
Baby One More Time	baby1moretime
Gonna Fly Now (Rocky Theme)	gonnaflynow

For Ringtones: Key in N <keyword> (Ex. N rshine)
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Summer shopping sensation

FRESH as the day's vegetables

LEANER and meatier

CHICKEN lover

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

It's not yet too late to take part in the Shopwise 'Fresh Off the Rack' promo, which runs until April 19

SHOPWISE recently kicked off the start of summer with an afternoon fashion show at the Festival Mall to launch "Fresh Off the Rack," an ongoing promotion featuring the hypermart chain's ready-to-wear fashion and fresh food items.

Clothes were grouped into several segments showcasing women's resort and casual wear, children's apparel and men's jeans and accessories

Each segment focused on a particular theme. Topless male models, for instance, were styled as cowboys cum butchers, complete with boots, wide belts, cleavers and a toy sheep, to better show off their beefcake bodies.

The scorcher of a segment, of course, promoted not only Shopwise's denim line, but also its meat products.

Was it just our imagination or were the men more effective than the women in raising the audience's temperature? A palpable surge of energy became evident as soon as the first among several male hard bodies did the ramp.

For their part, the women were styled either in latex headdresses made to look like breads or pastries. An earlier group wore plastic accessories in various sizes and shapes inspired by fruits and vegetables that ended up on their ears, necks and hemlines.

The twin segments promoted the chain's Wise Choice breads and fresh produce.

The female mannequins also had their chance to titillate the afternoon crowd in two-piece swimsuits that were discreetly covered with net-like skirts adorned with "seashells" not necessarily from the seashore. Fashion designer Eric Pineda and his creative team did the styling.

Apart from donning junior fashion, kids in feathery headdresses promoted the chain's poultry products. Their innocence and nonchalant ways provided a refreshing break from the often-choreographed moves of older, more seasoned models.

Enticing discounts

But why time a fashion and food promotion in the heat of summer?

"Based on our experience," says Crickette Tantoco, Shopwise's VP for merchandising and marketing, "fashion and fresh (food) items really sell well during summer, a time when children are usually off from school and families often go on picnics and vacations."

Apart from its regular price cuts, the chain has lined up enticing discounts on featured items of the week. The past week, for instance, zeroed in on goods found in each store's deli, dairy and children's wear departments.

It's not yet too late to take part in the promo, as it will run until April 19: seafood and swimwear (March 23-29); poultry, meat and men's fashion and accessories (March 30-April 5); fresh produce and intimate apparel (April 6-12); bakery and ladies' fashion and accessories (April 13-19).

And if you want to win your shopping money back, Tantoco advises patrons of the chain's fresh and fashion items to avail themselves of raffle coupons. "Fresh Off the Rack" will culminate in a raffle draw to take place simultaneously at all Shopwise branches on April 20, 4 p.m.

In short, there will be four sets of winners. Deadline for submission of raffle coupons is on April 19, 11 p.m.

Lucky patrons from each store can win the following cash (not gift certificates!) prizes tax free: first prize, five times the peso value of total fresh and fashion items purchased from the store; second prize, four times the peso value; third prize, three times the peso value; fourth prize, twice the peso value; and fifth prize, the actual peso value.

"The higher your purchases, the bigger your cash prize will be," says Tantoco. "You're free to drop as many raffle coupons as you want. In the event that your name gets drawn more than once, we'll peg your prize based on the higher amount (of purchases)."

Alex Y. Vergara

Share the joy of Easter with the whole family.

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The FIRST Celfone for Kids
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Hunt for your favorite Easter downloads from SMART Kid!

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EASTERB4 EASTERE5 EASTERE6 EASTERE7

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Text LOGO <LOGO NAME> to 3485
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Text PIC <PICTURE MESSAGE NAME> to 3485
BUNNYPIC1 BUNNYPIC2 BUNNYPIC3 BUNNYPIC4
EGGPIC1 EGGPIC2 EGGPIC3

The Big Easter Egg Hunt	SM Megatrade Hall, Ortigas
Easter Egg Hunt	Palms Country Club, Alabang
Dasmariñas Easter Event	Campanilla Park and Pavilion, Dasmariñas, Makati
Canyon Woods Eggs Galore	Canyon Woods, Tagaytay
Easter Anime Egg Hunting Adventure	Fontana Leisure Park, Clark Field, Pampanga

SM Fairview, SM Southmall, SM Bicutan, SM Bacoor,
Alabang Town Center, Fairview Center Mall
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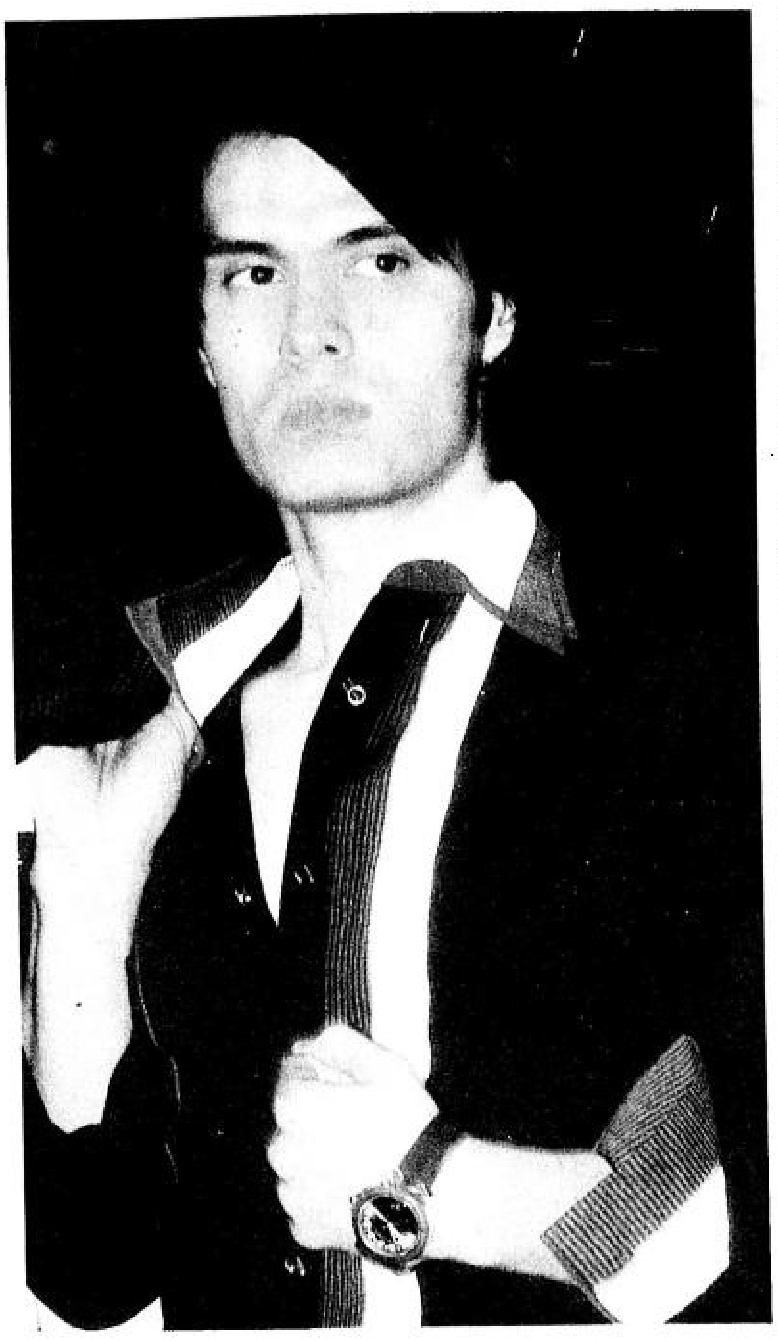
Timepieces to watch


GERALD GENTA Avena Bi-Retrograde

THE Bulgari Group recently launched the premium watch collections of Daniel Roth and Gerald Genta at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Roth and Genta's timepieces havea strong following among watch enthusiasts all over the world for their exquisite designs and sense of style.

The launch, which attracted over 450 guests, also had a three-segment fashion show featuring the country's top fashion models.

Garbed in classic minimalist selections from Randy Ortiz, Mix and Atelier M., the models came out each sporting a different Gerald Genta and Daniel Roth timepiece.

Genta's Disney-inspired Fantasy Line had models clad in provocative white garments in the Skin segment. The line comes with Gerald Genta retrograde watch movements, steel case and various dials.

The Arena and Solo collections were shown next in the Glam segment. Classic round cases and unique tonneau-shaped case designs complemented fashion selections for both the workplace or intimate after-office parties.

Daniel Roth timepieces figured in the finale as models wore stunning evening wear with the Mini Lady, Ladies Chronograph and exclusive Daniel Roth Masters Chronograph.

Hosts were Johnny Litton, Anton San Diego and Tessa Prieto-Valdez.

To cap the event, a stylish montage of red and blue display cases carrying the rest of the Daniel Roth and Gerald Genta collections was unveiled in the four corners of the ballroom.

DANIEL Roth Lady Automatic

Sylvaine Martinez, Swiss Wholesale associate manager for Gerald Genta and Daniel Roth, expressed his deep confidence in the partnership with Retail Operator Inc., exclusive distributor of Gerald Genta and Daniel Roth watches in the Philippines.

Brand principals including Jimmy Tay, managing director for Grand Tempo Pt. Ltd.; Mark Queck, managing director for Citimex Asia-Pacific; Tony Fong, director and general manager for FJ Benjamin Hong Kong; Adam Chang, regional general manager wholesale division-Asia for Daniel Roth and Gerald Genta; and Micheal Tay, deputy general manager for Hour Glass, flew in from Singapore and Hong Kong for the affair.

ROI directors Mr. Rene and Cora Florencio, son Raffy with wife Kat Florencio, Tommy Florencio, Mia Florencio, Jerome Garcia and Robert Castañeda spearheaded the glitzy affair.

GERALD Genta Avena Retrograde Sport

Also seen were Polly De Los Santos, Rex Mendoza with wife Anna, Rep. Albert Garcia, Gov. and Mrs. Tet Garcia, Choy Cojuangco and wife Marissa, Micky Cojuangco with wife Lizette Banzon, Mari Lagdameo with wife Le, Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, former Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho with wife Kim, Mr. and Mrs. Joey Concepcion, Vilma Valera and Mel Mathay, Micheal Tan with wife Angeline, Jeffrey and Vivian Ng, Miguel and Christine Aguiluz, Charles and Joana Lhuillier, Vice Gov. Ricky Recto, Fernando Perez, Makati Shangri-La's Jarlath Lynch, Eva Abesamis and Alyanna Montelibano, Ernie and Gina Lopez, Vicky Madrigal-Vasquez, Emily Sly, Lindy Enrile-Roxas, Randy Roxas, Marivic Vasquez, lawyer Jose Trenas, lawyer Mike Toledo, Jet and Beth Fernando, Frannie and Ramon Jacinto, Billy Valtos with wife Eliza Romualdez-Valtos and Rica Bagatsing.

Gerald Genta and Daniel Roth watches are exclusively available at Rafael Jewellery, 2/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Call 6363398.

LIZETTE Cojuangco, Mikey Cojuangco, Lito Camacho with wife Kim and Le Lagdameo

Gerald Genta DANIEL ROTH
ADAM Chang, Jerome Garcia, Jimmie Tay and Renato Florencio

RENE Florencio, Vilma Valera and Mel Mathay

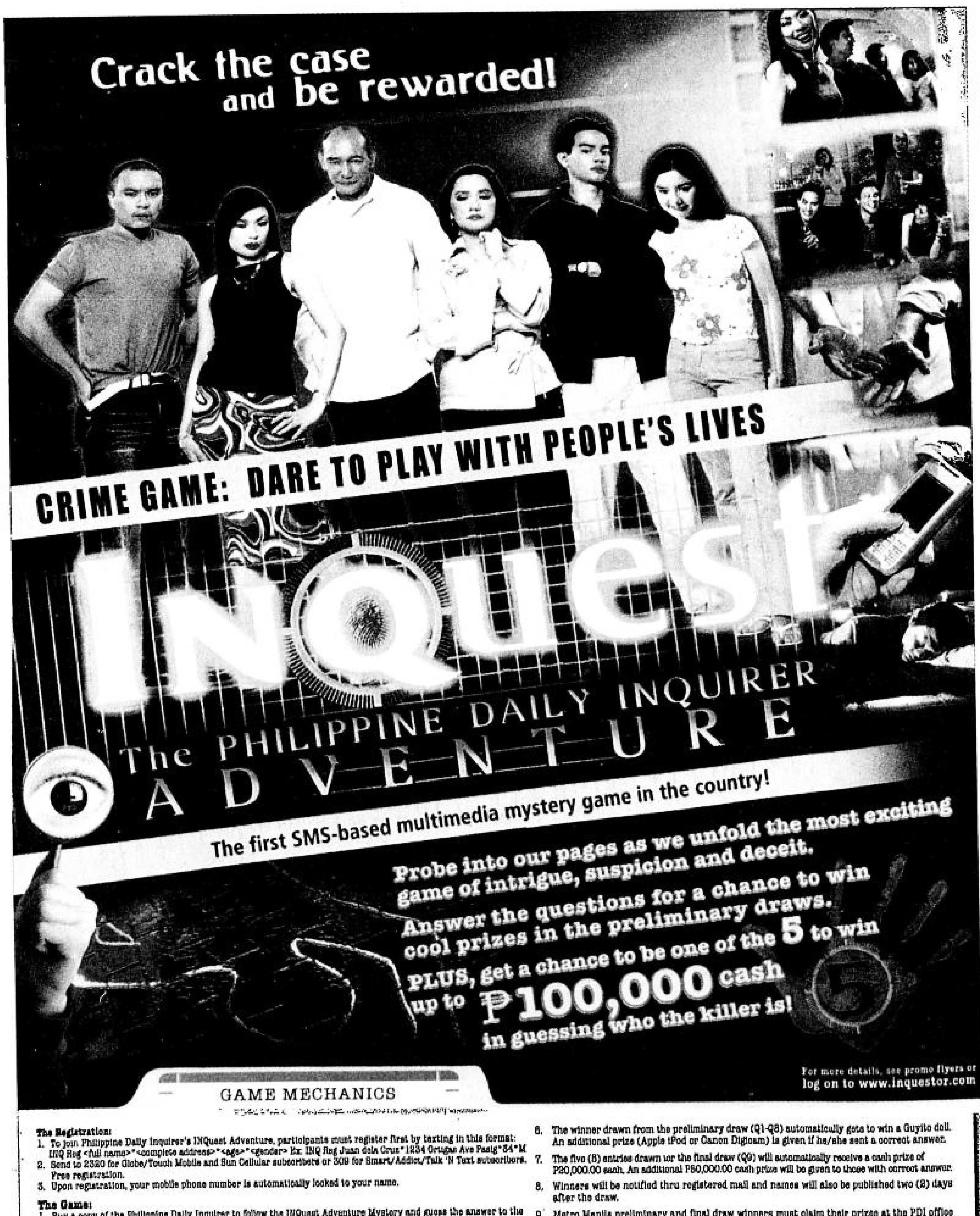
JEROME Garcia and Jimmy Tay

LINDY Enrile-Roxas, Randy Roxas and Polly de los Santos

SHANGRI-LA'S Jarlath Lynch and Kat Florencio

EMILY Sy, Mia Florencio and Tessa Prieto-Valdes

ELIZA Romualdez Valtos and Billy Valtos


Crack the case and be rewarded!

CRIME GAME: DARE TO PLAY WITH PEOPLE'S LIVES

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Answer the questions for a chance to win cool prizes in the preliminary draws.

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GAME MECHANICS

The Registration:

1. To join Philippine Daily Inquirer's INQuest Adventure, participants must register first by texting in this format: INQ Reg <full name>*<complete address>*<age>*<gender> Ex: INQ Reg Juan dela Cruz*1234 Ortigas Ave Pasig*34*M
2. Send to 2320 for Globe/Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers or 309 for Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text subscribers. Free registration.
3. Upon registration, your mobile phone number is automatically locked to your name.

The Game:

1. Buy a copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer to follow the INQuest Adventure Mystery and guess the answer to the questions found at the end of the chapter installments.
2. To help you answer the questions, clues can be found in various sections in Philippine Daily Inquirer, INQuest website or INQTV (every Thursdays, 8 to 9pm at ABC5). To answer, text in this format: INQ Q<question #> <answer> and so on. Ex: INQ Q1 A
3. Participant is allowed a maximum of three (3) answers per question. Each text answer entitles the participant one (1) raffle entry to qualify for the preliminary draws.
4. For each successful text sent, participants will receive a confirmation message. The cost for each successful message sent is P2.50 for Globe/Touch Mobile/Smart/Addict and Talk 'N Text subscribers and P2.00 for Sun Cellular subscribers.
5. There will be a total of eight (8) preliminary draws (1 winner each) and one (1) final draw (5 winners). There will only be one (1) winner per question (preliminary draw) but an individual may win again in the succeeding preliminary draws. Final draw winner can only win once.

Clue	Clue Date	Cut-Off	Draw	Bonus Prizes for Correct Answers
Q1	March 9	March 12	March 14	Apple iPod 20GB
Q2	March 16	March 19	March 28	Canon PowerShot A75
Q3	March 23	March 30	April 4	Apple iPod 20GB
Q4	March 31	April 2	April 4	Canon PowerShot A75
Q5	April 5	April 9	April 11	Apple iPod 20GB
Q6	April 10	April 16	April 18	Canon PowerShot A75
Q7	April 17	April 23	April 25	Apple iPod 20GB
Q8	April 24	April 30	May 2	Canon PowerShot A75
Q9	May 1	May 7	May 9	5 x ₱80,000.00 Cash

6. The winner drawn from the preliminary draw (Q1-Q8) automatically gets to win a Guyito doll. An additional prize (Apple iPod or Canon Digicam) is given if he/she sent a correct answer.
7. The five (5) entries drawn for the final draw (Q9) will automatically receive a cash prize of P20,000.00 each. An additional P80,000.00 cash prize will be given to those with correct answer.
8. Winners will be notified thru registered mail and names will also be published two (2) days after the draw.
9. Metro Manila preliminary and final draw winners must claim their prizes at the PDI office located at: Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City.
10. Provincial preliminary draw winners have the option of either claiming their prize in person at the PDI office or have the prize sent to them via courier service. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.
11. The following must be presented for verification:
    a. Valid ID with picture (e.g., driver's license, passport, employee ID)
    b. In case valid IDs do not indicate birthdate/age, present a birth certificate
    c. Copy of PDI's notification/confirmation letter
    d. PDI mast head (including date) taken from issue where question was published
12. Prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days after receipt of confirmation letter. Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.
13. All prizes are tax-free, not transferable and not convertible to cash.
14. The winners declared by PDI, DTI and its representatives are final.
15. All employees of PDI Group of Companies, sponsors of INQuest, their advertising agencies/third party suppliers and their relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
16. Promo period is from March 2 to May 7, 2005.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1123, Series of 2005

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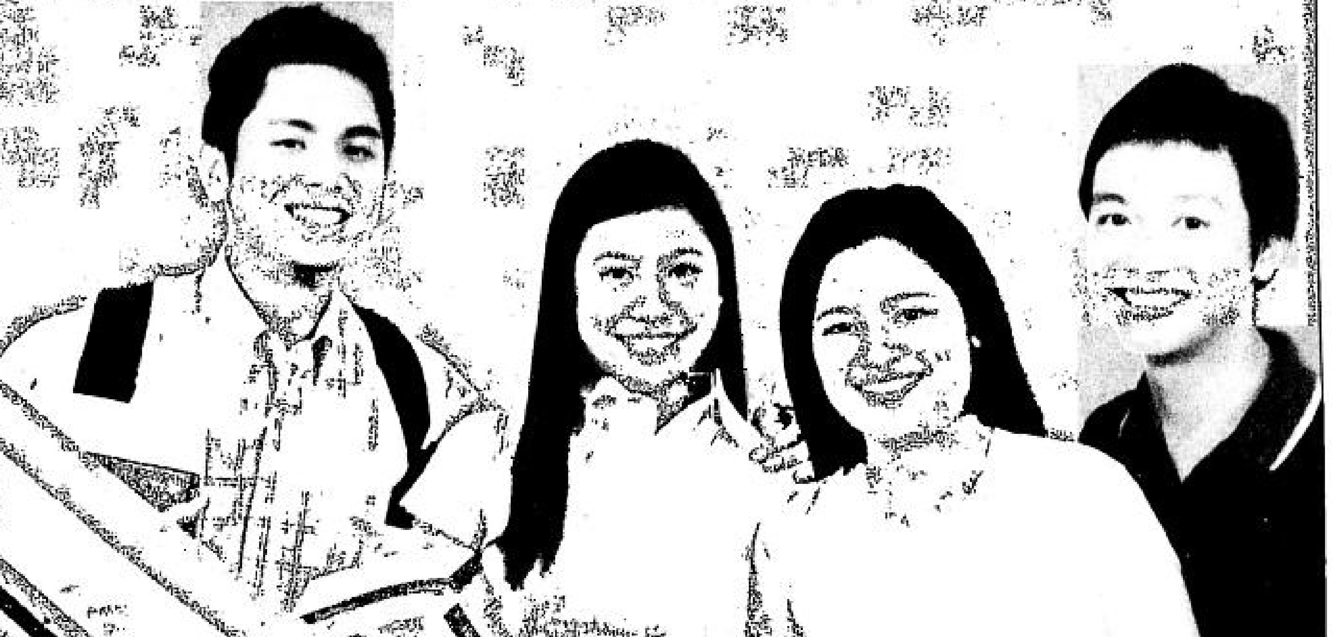

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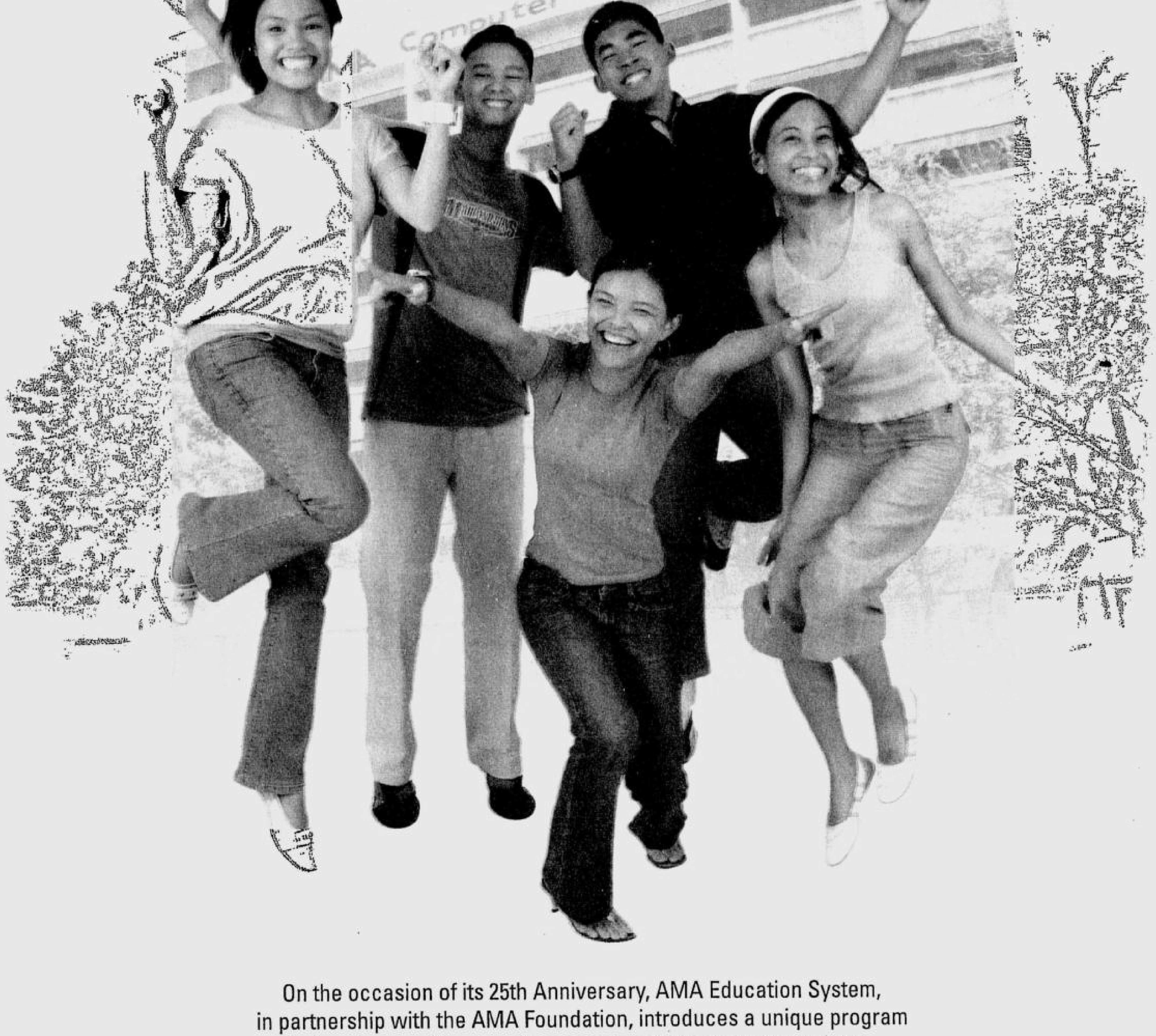

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Pages 9 to 11

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The recognitions we have received are undisputed facts, a testament to our drive for global excellence and our commitment in developing our workforce.

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- Outbound Sales Associates
- Multilingual Customer Service Associates (French, Japanese, Portuguese, Dutch, Russian)
- Site Director

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- Contract Quality Assurance Manager

Information Technology
- Project Manager
- Senior Analyst
- Senior Programmer
- Business Analyst

Sales and Marketing
- Associate Proposal Writer

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Operations
- Quality Assurance Associates
- Team Leaders
- Quality Assurance Manager
- Shift Managers
- Operations Managers

Corporate Human Resources
- Recruiting Officers

Information Technology
- Telecoms Specialist
- Computer Systems Specialist
- IT Manager

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- Female; between 24-30 years old
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resource Management
- Preferably with two (2) years experience in recruitment and other areas of HR work
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must have strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality and can deal well with all levels in the organization
- Must be people-oriented, analytical, and highly motivated
- Must be computer literate

MERCHANDISING ASSISTANTS

- Female, between 23-29 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year business related course or Fashion Merchandising
- With at least six (6) months work experience preferably in the same/related field
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be analytical and results-oriented
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- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Must be computer literate

MARKETING OFFICERS

- Female; between 23-29 years old
- Degree in Business, Marketing Management or Mass Communications
- With at least one (1) year work experience in advertising, publicity or marketing
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate

BOUTIQUE MANAGERS

- Between 25-35 years old; at least 5'2 in height
- Graduate of a four (4) year course
- Preferably with work experience in a fashion retail establishment
- Must possess a pleasing and aggressive personality
- Must be very good in customer relations
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO E-MAIL OR SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUME, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

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- Male, not more than 30 years old.
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- At least one (1) year experience in Accounting field.
- Experience in inventory an advantage but not a requirement.
- Knowledgeable in MS Excel, Access.
- Must be willing to render overtime work.
- Hardworking, responsible & trustworthy.

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- Female, between 23 to 27 years old.
- Graduate of any business or communication course.
- Knowledgeable in Adobe Photoshop, CorelDraw, Powerpoint or any desktop publishing applications.
- Can communicate well in written & oral English.

For interested applicants, please send your application letter together with your detailed resume, 2x2" picture and other credentials to:

The HR Department
AZ Bldg. 723 Sgt. Bumatay St. Plainview, 1550 Mandaluyong City
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A prestigious Corporation engaged in the tourism industry is in need of the following:

- **Department Manager III G-26**, Item Nos. 41, 58, 97 / Bachelor's degree / 3 yrs. Supervisory experience / CSEE / CES.
- **Division Chief III G-24**, Item Nos. 30, 44, 49, 83, 106 / Masteral degree / 4 yrs. in position/s involving mgnt. and supervision / 24 hrs. of training in mgnt. and supervision / CS (P)
- **Executive Assistant III G-20**, Item No. 24 / Bachelor's degree / 3 yrs. Experience / 16 hrs. training / CS (P).
- **Market Specialist III G-18**, Item Nos. 31, 37, 63 / Bachelor's degree / 2 yrs. of relevant experience / 8 hrs. relevant training / CS (P).
- **Creative Arts Specialist II G-15**, Item Nos. 102, 108 / Bachelor's degree relevant to the job / 1 yr. relevant experience / 4 hrs. of relevant training / CS (P).
- **Records Officer II G-14**, Item No. 156 / Bachelor's degree / 1 yr. relevant experience / 4 hrs. relevant training / with background in psychology / CS (P).
- **Planning Officer I G-11**, Item No. 120 / Bachelor's degree relevant to the job / CS (P).
- **Market Analyst II G-13**, Item No. 66 / Bachelor's degree / CS (P).

Interested parties may send their resumé, transcript of records, NBI and other relevant documents to P.O. Box EA-459 Manila.

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- Graduate/undergraduate of computer graphic course
- Must be proficient in ADOBE PHOTOSHOP/COREL
- Willing to be stationed in outlets/branches
- Must be able to work in extreme pressure
- Must be able to handle customers with a smile

PROMODISERS/SALES STAFF

- Female/male; 22-35 years old
- Must have good command of the English language
- Can handle customer complaints effectively
- Graduate/undergraduate of any business, management or mass communication course
- Must have a pleasing personality and willing to be stationed in branches/outlets

SALES MANAGERS

- Male/female; 23-35 years old
- Graduate of management or business course
- Able to operate the computer (Excel/Word) is a must
- Must be customer-oriented and must be able to handle pressure with confidence
- Sales experience an advantage
- Willing to travel nationwide

CUSTOMER SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- Female/male; 23-36 years old
- Graduate/undergraduate of marketing, management or business course
- Willing to travel nationwide
- Knowledgeable in computers (Word/Excel)
- Sales experience an advantage
- With pleasing personality, team player and with excellent command of the English language

Interested parties may send resume with 2x2 picture from Mon-Fri. 1:00-4:00 PM only
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LTW TECHNOLOGY (SUBIC) INTERNATIONAL, INC. a new company based in Subic is in urgent needs of the following top caliber applicants:

- **MARKETING AND MARKET INTELLIGENCE**
- **SALES EXECUTIVE** (Female)
- **SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT** (Female-Mandarin Speaking)

Requirements:

- Graduate of any Engineering or related course;
- At least three (3) years experience in R & D, Sales and Marketing job is a plus factor; but we welcome fresh graduates
- Knowledgeable Windows XP and Office;
- An applicants has an advantage if he/she has orientation in mechanical, electronics and electrical design or as sales or marketing
- Proficient in any of the following languages: Japanese, German, Spanish or French
- Able to communicate well and has a strong interpersonal skills;
- Dynamic, team player, goal motivated, loyal and trustworthy;
- Successful candidates shall be provided with accommodations

Qualified applicants may send their resumé to:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
#23 Efficiency Avenue corner Innovative St. SBIP-1, SBFZ 2222
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-2736 to 37 Fax No. (047) 252-2735
E-mail: sally@ltw-tech.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

LTW TECHNOLOGY (SUBIC) INTERNATIONAL, INC. a new company based in Subic is in urgent needs of the following top caliber applicants:

- **MOLD DESIGN ENGINEERS**
- **R & D ENGINEERS**
- **ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS**

Requirements:

- Graduate of any Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics Engineering;
- At least three (3) years experience in mold, research or design; but we welcome fresh graduates
- Knows how to operate Protel, Orcad, Cam350 Autocad, OSD, Pro-E or solid works; if no experience training will be provided;
- An applicants has an advantage if he/she has orientation in plastic molding, die casting, metal parts; injection tool or GPS wireless equipment telecommunications; electronic equipments;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Dynamic, team player, goal motivated, loyal and trustworthy;
- Successful candidates shall be provided with accommodations

Qualified applicants may send their resumé to:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
#23 Efficiency Avenue corner Innovative St. SBIP-1, SBFZ 2222
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Content Coordinator (Korean Translator) — with good IT background, an equally important aspect of the job is helping the company build and maintain good relationships with our Korean partners.

Community Manager — Job will conceptualize in-game events and promos for the playing community while at the same time helping Marketing disseminate information and marketing programs to the players. A wild and creative imagination is needed for this exciting job as well as a genuine love and passion for the game.

Community Game Masters — Although some think of it, being Game Master is not a walk in the park. One must be professional, a game expert, a big brother, customer centric and facilitator all at the same time. Like in-game headgear, a GM has many hats to wear.

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Senior Applications Developer — Job will lead the Applications Development Team in the development, maintenance and enhancement of applications and systems required by the company in support of business goals. Extensive experience in developing applications using ASP.NET, HTML, JavaScript, PHP. Proficient in database programming/analysis using MS SQL server.

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To apply, e-mail resumes to jobs@levelupgames.ph with the position applied for written in the subject field or visit us at the Level Up! Head office at the:

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Telecom

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JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Graduate of any Bachelor's Degree
- Has less than 1 year related work experience; Fresh graduates are also encouraged to apply or those who have no related prior work experience
- Willingness and drive to do inbound Sales is required; previous experience is an advantage
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Must be proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willingness to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment is a must

Openings for CCS are for immediate hiring.

Team Leaders
(JOB CODE: PDI - TL)
Responsible for leading a team of CCS in achieving their team goals

Trainers
(JOB CODE: PDI - TRN)
Responsible for conducting client-specific, voice and accent or soft skills training.

Workforce Specialist
(JOB CODE: PDI - WS)
Responsible for schedule assignments and monitoring shift changes

Quality Specialist
(JOB CODE: PDI - QS)
Responsible for quality monitoring and data evaluation of performance metrics

Quality Consultants
(JOB CODE: PDI - QC)
Fluent in any of the following languages: Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, Korean, Thai; familiar with call center QA monitoring principles

Email your resume mentioning JOB CODE in the subject line to:
applications@daksh.com

Operations Manager
(JOB CODE: PDI – TS/OM)
Team Leader
(JOB CODE: PDI – TS/TL)
Product Trainer
(JOB CODE: PDI – TS/PT)
QAS
(JOB CODE: PDI – TS/QAS)

Tech Support

Applicants for these positions are required to have a college degree and related work experience to the position applied for. Exposure to the call center environment is required; knowledge of technical support would be an advantage. **All applicants for these positions are also required to have a valid US visa.**

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WANTED

A Corporation that is involved in Mining, Export-Furniture Manufacturing, Peking Duck Farms, Restaurants, Coffee Shops and Personal Care (Barbershops, Salons and Nail Care)

We're a dynamic and aggressive group who values our teams' advancement both in career and personal development.

We're looking for INDIVIDUALS who are team players and would be part of the realization of the company's visions.

The requirements of the candidate will be the following:

FINANCE OFFICER
ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's / College Degree in Accountancy / Administration / Management / Marketing, or equivalent
- Pleasing personality
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Required language(s): English, Filipino
- Required Skill: MS Office
- At least one year experience in accounting or bookkeeping
- Full time positions available with good compensation and benefits

COMMIS / BUTCHER

- Male 25-35 years old
- At least 1 year experience in the hot kitchen

RECEPTIONIST

- Female 18-25 years old
- At least 1 year experience in fine dining or casual dining service
- College level
- Service oriented and with pleasing personality

Please send or bring your bio-data with 2" x 2" ID picture to:

MICHELLE J. GUILLERMO
Lokaldero Holdings, Inc.
Room 301 3rd Floor, Regina Bldg.
100 Aguirre corner Trassiera Streets
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Or send via e-mail to: lokaldero@yahoo.com

Abbott Laboratories

"To be the Premier Health Care Company in the Philippines"
is our Vision.

The existence of Abbott in the country for more than 60 years is a tangible expression of this commitment, providing innovative products and services that span the continuum of care — from prevention and diagnosis to treatment and cure.

Do you want to take part in building the Premier Health Care Company in the Philippines? Then talk to us...

Qualified candidates should send an updated resumé to:

Human Resources Department
(Code:DSM or PMR)
ABBOTT Laboratories Phils.
102 EDSA corner Madison St.,
Mandaluyong City

E-mail: teresita.bernardo@abbott.com

www.abbottrecruitment.com.ph

Only short listed candidates shall be scheduled for interview. Previous applicants need not apply. Applications will be treated with strict confidentiality.

DISTRICT SALES MANAGERS

(for GMA, Luzon, Visayas)

We need managers who will sell and model the core values of Abbott to their subordinates and customers. Leaders who will ensure that programs are implemented in their respective districts to support plans for growth. Motivators who will provide feedback, coaching and mentoring to Professional Medical Representatives to develop their skills and deliver what is expected from them. We need individuals with the commitment and passion to achieve great things.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in any field;
- Experience as District Sales Manager in the Health Care / Pharmaceutical industry preferably with a multinational company;
- Leadership skills demonstrated in the way Professional Medical Representatives were motivated and managed making them effectively perform their duties and achieve goals;
- Being a role model, should be able to tell us about own proven track record in sales goals achievement;
- Excellent communication and presentation skills.

PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

Qualifications:

- University graduates, any four or five year degree courses;
- Strong interpersonal and team skills;
- Very good communication and presentation skills with the ability and aptitude to learn and understand effectively information of medical science nature;
- Licensed drivers are desired but high potential non-drivers will also be considered;
- Importantly, must be willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines;
- With or without previous work experience, recent graduates from Manila and the provinces are encouraged to apply.

WANTED

SECRETARY

- B.S. Office Management/Secretarial Administration graduate
- Female; not more than 30 years old; Good moral character
- Computer literate.

APPLY PERSONALLY:
NOTRE DAME OF GREATER MANILA Madre Ignacia Ave., Grace Park, 1400 Caloocan City Tel. No. 366-6334 local 111 (H.S.); 101 or 201
BRING: Transcript of Records, Bio-data, Handwritten application letter, SSS No., TIN, ID Picture (1x1), X-Ray & Medical Certificate.

Send your resumé instantly.

JOB Market

www.jobmarketonline.com

SILVERGATE GROUP OF COMPANIES

219 Wilson St. San Juan, Manila Tel.7238832

We urgently need the following positions:

Assistant Branch Officer
- College graduate of any 4 year course.
- At least 21 – 27 yrs old.
- Willing to work under pressure.
- Can work with minimal supervision.
- Computer literate on software and hardware.
- Have an interpersonal conversational skill.
- With good customer service orientation.

Computer Technician
- Graduate of 2 year vocational or 4 yr course preferably computer related courses.
- At least 21 – 27 yrs old.
- Can work with minimal supervision.
- Have an experience in customer service oriented establishment
- Knowledgeable in assembling and troubleshooting PC software and hardware

Electronic Technician
- Graduate of 2 year Electronic vocational course.
- At least 21 – 27 yrs old.
- Have an experience in customer service oriented establishment
- Knowledgeable in repairing and troubleshooting game console

Interested applicants may personally submit their resumé with 2x2 colored picture together with your credentials at No: 219 Wilson St., San Juan, Manila on Monday to Thursday at 1 PM or E-mail your resumé at fpisilvergate@yahoo.com

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WANTED

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- Male, single or married, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Business or related course
- Must have good scholastic record
- Must have good personality
- Must be honest, trustworthy and diligent
- Must be willing to do field work

Please send resumé, transcript of records & passport size photo or apply in person at:

ACS Manufacturing Corporation
Unit 1108 Antel Global Corporate Center
No. 3 Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (632) 638-3414

CYPRESS

CYPRESS SEMICONDUCTOR PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTERS, LTD.

Regional Operating Headquarters

Supporting Cypress Semiconductor Worldwide, a diversified, broadline suppliers with a communications focus. Cypress has created some of the world's leading semiconductor products that support key communications businesses.

Cypress has aligned its organization along four market-focused segments:

- Wireless Terminals
- Wireless Infrastructure
- Wide Area Networks
- Storage Networks

Cypress Semiconductor is a global supplier of high-performance integrated circuits. Our global headquarter is located at San Jose California. Our strategic customer-leaders in the data communications, networking, telecommunications, and personal computer markets.

At Cypress, we strive to surpass current standards in the world's most competitive high tech arena. We take career growth of our people seriously. We provide training incentive in all levels. We reward success and hard work with competitive salary, tuition refund, employee bonuses, and a flexible benefits package.

At Cypress, winning is our business and we only hire the best.

SENIOR BUYERS (Code: TZK –ROHQ1)

- Responsible for a range of commodities or assignments; requiring the full use and application of standard purchasing techniques.
- Ensures timely acquisition of product or service requirements and maintenance of supplier relationships.
- Participates in supplier performance and/or cost reduction/continuous improvement programs.
- Negotiates standard contracts place basic purchase orders; Acquires and use market research in sourcing decisions.
- Applies established strategies and tactics to achieve goals; Participates in cross-functional team activities and
- Assists in the location of secondary sources of supply.

Job Specific Requirements:
Skills: Spreadsheet, Word Processing and Presentation software skills highly recommended. Oracle purchasing modules experience a plus. E-mail and Internet Browser experience highly desirable. Must demonstrate effective communication, interpersonal and team skills

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
Minimum Education / Experience: BS/BA degree plus two to four years experience or MS/MBA degree and up to three years experience or equivalent combination of training and experience. Requires working knowledge of standard purchasing systems and procedures.

INTERNAL AUDITORS (3) (Code: NRE- ROHQ2)

- Responsible for adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control environment management has established to reasonably help ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, safeguarding of company assets, reliability of financial reporting, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Conducts management testing of key internal controls to support Sarbanes Oxley section 404 Certification. This will include: Preparing test plans for key controls, executing test plans, documenting results and recommending remediation steps for management to implement where necessary and assisting in the development and implementation of an on-going management testing process.
- Participates in financial and operational audits focusing on the adequacy of the internal control environment.
- Responsible for completing fieldwork, explaining audit exceptions, recommending operational enhancements or efficiencies, documenting procedures, and preparing reports.
- The internal auditor will have extensive interaction with management at all levels of the organization.
- The internal auditor will work under the supervision of the Internal Audit Manager and must be able to work in a team environment as well as independently.

Job Specific Requirements
Project management skills, Strong accounting cycle knowledge preferred, including Revenue, AP, AR, GL, financial reporting Knowledge of corporate governance regulations, laws (Sarbanes-Oxley) and corporate governance best practices
Experience with COSO based assessment program; Excellent written, oral communication skills and interpersonal skills are critical. Must exhibit the ability to balance multiple, high priority projects simultaneously; Excellent understanding and grasp of business concepts and operations; Willingness to travel and occasionally work night shift during certain audits; Excellent PC skills (Excel, Word, & Access, Project, PowerPoint, Visio)

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field; 3 years Audit experience is required. (i.e., Public Accounting Firm, Internal Audit, etc.) Achievement or the active pursuit of one or more of the following professional certifications is strongly preferred Certified Public Accountant (CPA); Chartered Accountant (CA); Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) Responsible for new product releases.

TREASURY ANALYST (Code: HHC-ROHQ3)

- Participates in daily cash planning, cash forecasting, banking and investment reporting & analysis.
- Supports other treasury business processes including foreign exchange, financing, insurance and the company loan program based on performance.
- Contributes to the treasury close process and will be responsible for applicable accounting activities.
- Participate in treasury and/or cross-functional projects, along with documentation & re-engineering of treasury business processes.
- Duties will include a mixture of transactional, project work, reporting & analytical activities.
- This position will report directly to the site Treasury Manager and support treasury projects defined by the Treasurer at our Corporate Headquarters in San Jose, California, USA

Job Specific Requirements:
Treasury knowledge & experience including: banking, cash management, cash forecasting and investments is required. Exposure to foreign exchange hedging, financing, insurance or other treasury responsibilities would be ideal.
Ability to meet treasury accounting & general ledger reconciliation requirements. A working knowledge of Microsoft Access, Oracle ERP system & banking/treasury systems & software.
Excellent communication skills are required. In addition this person must have analytical skills, be able to work under pressure and produce a high quality result. - Willing to report during night shift

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
BS or BA Degree in Finance/Accounting/Business or equivalent, CPA and/or MBA preferred - 4 years minimum of Treasury or related experience - Hands on accounting knowledge & audit interface experience - Demonstrated capability to function in fast paced high tech company. Treasury accounting experience & ability to understand the "big picture", as well as the details - Proficiency in computing skills including Microsoft Excel, Word & PowerPoint.

COST ACCOUNTANTS (ING-ROHQ4)

- Maintains standard cost system and establishes new item setups. Ensure inventory values and product costs are accurate.
- Completes month-end close processes including reconciliation of all inventory accounts and various cost of sales/ variances accounts.
- Responsible for accurate, timely reports/results for multiple manufacturing locations. Provides as-needed analyses to various internal customers including Product lines.
- Identifies cost accounting issues, recommend policy/procedure improvements, and keep current on technical accounting pronouncements including Sarbanes-Oxley.

Job Specific Requirements:
Knowledgeable of General Accounting Principles specifically in Inventory accounting. Excellent computer skills- that includes advance knowledge in Microsoft Applications (Excel/Word/PowerPoint) while experience in database query tools is an advantage.
Must posses excellent verbal / written communications skills along with solid analytical ability. Ability to deal with varied situations and respond quickly and effectively given changing priorities and deadlines. Ability to function as team participant can work with all levels of management and with all business functions.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
Bachelor Degree in Business Administration (BSBA) Accounting, preferably CPA. Required 5 to 7 years related Accounting/ Finance experience, with a minimum of 4 years in Cost Accounting. Prior experience in Semiconductor Industry Cost Accounting and knowledge in Oracle Financials is highly preferred.

ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST (LAQ-ROHQ5)

- Responsible for working with third party global freight payment companies and carriers to ensure timely and accurate Freight invoice payments to transportation providers, resolving billing disputes and approving carrier invoices for payment.
- Updates routing information and rate database. Interfaces with Logistics, Finance and international/domestic carriers.
- Processes Global freight billing & freight rates; carrier invoices for payments if rejected by 3rd party freight payment company.
- Settles rate & billing disputes w/ carriers. Applies accurate general ledger codes to freight invoices. Applies reclasses, as needed, weekly. Maintain and update carrier master files, including carrier contracts and rate schedules. Update freight rates to third party freight payment company and post audit provider. Analysis & Reporting Develop trend analysis by category/lane.
- Provide historical data/trend analysis to support chain initiatives and RFQs as needed. Update Logistics freight cost spreadsheets. Create/ update/maintain Excel spreadsheet of all freight bills approved for payment Maintain filing system for all freight related files

Job Specific Requirements:
Knowledge of transportation industry particularly Freight billing payment technology and processes. Candidate should be achievement oriented, possess excellent planning and organization skills, teamsmanship and interpersonal skills. Excellent English written and oral communication skills a must!

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
B.S. in Logistics, Accounting or related studies with 1-2 years experience in freight billing/auditing.

FINANCIAL ANALYST 2 (OSJROHQ-6)

- Prepares standard monthly journal entries. Analysis and amortization of mask prepaid Analysis of direct margin by family.
- Prepares account reconciliation and maintains Oracle allocation tables and Accounting for Kit Inventory
- Reviews and analysis departmental spending and reviews transfer prices.

Job Specific Requirements:
Working knowledge of Oracle allocation system. Teamwork, Achievement Oriented, Planning and Organization, Interpersonal, Communication, Customer Oriented. Excellent English written and oral communication skills a must!

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
BS/BA in Accounting or Finance. Minimum of two years. Public accounting experience or two to three years in Semiconductor Industry as an Accountant or Financial Analyst.

IT ENGINEERS, WEB DEVELOPERS, SOFTWARE ENGINEERS (ELWROHQ-7)

Job Specific Requirements:
Thorough practical understanding of CS principles. Specialized programming skills & proficiency in C, Java and Embedded SQL. Development experience in Oracle is required. Knowledge in Web Development and Design.
Past work experience in Ingress will be a plus. Good knowledge of structured software design. Good Domain Knowledge in Manufacturing, Planning and Sales/Marketing areas for Semiconductor Industry.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
Bachelor's Degree (BE/B.Tech) in Computer Science. 2 to 5 years minimum experience in Software development field with C, Java, Linux/ Unix and Databases programming.

Candidates must be willing to travel and work in the night shift

Interested applicants are requested to submit their resumes (in word format) to: rohq-sscjob@cypress.com

or mail to:
T.F.Tongco Human Resources Director (+Job Code)
Cypress Semiconductor Philippine Headquarters, LTD.
Regional Operating Headquarters
2nd Flr. Net One Center 26'Th St. Cor. 3rd Ave. Crescent Park West, Fort Bonifacio,
Taguig City Metro Manila Philippines
visit us at www.cypress.com

Please indicate job code.

GREFAS

Grefas, a multi-national company specialist in made-to-order skin care system for facial fitness is establishing a beauty-support center in Philippines and is seeking for immediate hiring:

1. Skin-care therapists

Qualifications

- Graduate Physical therapy or any related course
- Female, 21-25 years old, single
- Good-looking, at least 5'2" in height
- a fair complexion and clear skin is a must
- people-oriented with pleasing personality
- has good communication skills and able to interact well

2. Front Desk Assistant Officer

Qualifications:

- Graduate B.S. Commerce or any related 4-year course
- Female, 21-25 years old, single
- Good-looking with fair complexion and clear skin
- Proficient in written and oral communication
- Experienced in computer operations (Windows applications)

Applicants may email resumé 2x2 photo to yu_dian@excite.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

A Global Leader in Information and Communications Technology is recruiting for it's expansion program IT Professionals and Administrative staff who are innovative, creative, hard working and team player.

- **Marketing Managers** (2 -3 yrs. experience)
- **HR Managers** (3 yrs experience)
- **Assistant HR Officer** (1 yr. experience)
- **Purchasing Officer** (2 yrs. experience)
- **IT Researcher** (2 yrs. experience)
- **Web Designer / Developer** (2 yrs. experience) (Javascript, ASP, ASP Net)
- **System Analyst** (3 yrs experience) .
- **Accounting Personnel**
- **Account Manager / Account Executive**

Qualifications:

- *Degree in Information Technology or any computer studies, or any course relevant to the position applied for.*
- *Fulltime and can work overtime*
- *Master degree is a plus for managerial position.*
- *Computer Literate*

Submit your resumé to:

1st IT CENTER

7373 Bakawan Street, San Antonio Village
Makati City, Philippines 1200
Tel nos. : (632) 893 - 9004, 893 - 7844
email : hrd@go2ph.net

PHILIPPINE TATLER

The Philippine Tatler, Manila's Premiere Lifestyle & Society Magazine is looking for the following personnel.

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Male or Female, Minimum of three years experience in the field of sales & marketing. Must be goal oriented, pro-active, and a team player. Experience in publication is an advantage.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Graduate of Communication Arts, Journalism or other related course. Must be computer literate, motivated and must possess excellent writing, communication, organizational & interpersonal skills. The ideal candidate will have proven copy editing, production, and planning skills & be able to meet tight deadlines.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Female, graduate of any 4 year course, preferably Mascom or Advertising graduate, with good knowledge in Accounting. Can work with minimal supervision. Has good communication skills. Knowledgeable in MS Word & Excel. Will report directly to the General Manager & Managing Director.

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

Candidate must be an Accounting graduate, preferably CPA. Computer literate (MS Office Applications). Hardworking & trustworthy and willing to work long hours with at least 4 years of experience. Activities will encompass preparing periodic financial budgets & forecast; compiling cash flow reports; preparing year-end and statutory accounts.

BOOKKEEPER

Candidate must be an Accounting graduate, preferably CPA. Computer literate (MS Office Applications). Hardworking & trustworthy and willing to work long hours with at least 2 years of experience.

Please send full resumé to:

THE PUBLISHER
PHILIPPINE TATLER
Unit 11-A, 11th Floor Manila Bank Building
6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Elite Garments International, Inc.

owner and manufacturer of established brand names for the local and export market

freeway solo salsa

JR. FASHION MERCHANDISER

- * Loves fashion & knows current trends in ladieswear
- * Will be involved in design dev't & retail merchandising
- * W/artistic background, at least 2-3 yrs work experience
- * Mature, with leadership capabilities
- * Female, below 30 yrs. old, w/ courses in Fine Arts, Advertising, Marketing, Graphic Arts, Fashion Design & related courses

Send resumé with credentials or fax/e-mail to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. (HRD)
996 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St.(Vito Cruz) Malate, Manila
Tels. #525-3593/523-0957 Fax # 521-36-71
E-mail: maye@elitegarments.com

The Philippines' Premier Game Development Company

anino ENTERTAINMENT

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Digital Artists

- Graduate of Fine Arts/Multimedia arts or equivalent
- Has skills in 2 or more of the following:
  - Modeling and animation using 3D authoring software
  - Photo Editing and Retouching in Adobe Photoshop
  - Macromedia Flash and Action Scripting
  - Sprite Drawing and Animation
- Portfolio required for submission

C/C++Programmers

- Computer Science Graduate or equivalent
- Expertise in C++ with sound fundamental programming skills
- Preferably with game development experience
- Familiar with DirectX or OpenGL API, and Network Programming
- Sample work required

Mobile Phone Programmers

- Computer Science Graduate or equivalent
- Expertise in J2ME with sound fundamental programming skills
- Sample work required

Above average starting pay ; relaxed working environment.
Applicants must be able to work well with a small team and willing to work overtime/nightshifts.
Our offices are located at Madrigal Business Park, Alabang and Teacher's Village, Quezon City

Qualified applicants can send their resumes to:
resumes@aninoentertainment.com

A major distributor of sports equipment is in need of upbeat and dynamic individuals with the following qualifications

Qualifications for

Sales Associate

1. Must be at least high school graduate, college degree is an advantage.
2. With pleasing personality and willing to work at extended hours.
3. Must be knowledgeable in Windows based computer applications.
4. Willing to be based anywhere in Metro Manila.
5. Able to write and speak English fluently.

Address your application, Bio data and or Resume to Master Sports Corporation, Ground Floor, West Tower Condominium, South Superhighway cor. M.H. del Pilar sts. Makati City, 1233 Philippines.

VSO BAHAGINAN

Sharing skills
Changing lives

__VSO Bahaginan__, the National Partner Agency of VSO in the Philippines, offers a unique opportunity for Filipino professionals to share their skills with some of the world's most disadvantaged people in other developing countries. It also supports national volunteering by building partnerships to strengthen and build the capacities of local volunteer organizations in the Philippines, and in the Southeast Asia.

VSO Bahaginan is currently looking for a

PROGRAMME MANAGER (Job Code: PM)

Responsible to : Director, VSO Bahaginan
Responsible for : Managing the development of an effective international volunteer recruitment management programme for VSO Bahaginan.

Responsibilities of the Programme Manager post include:

- ☐ **Volunteer Sending Programme Management**
  Work closely with VSO International Recruitment to manage the development of VSO Bahaginan's programme on volunteer recruitment, selection, placement, training and resettlement to achieve the most dynamic and cost-effective match between the needs of VSO's overseas programs, recruitment and funding opportunities that exist in the Philippines.
- ☐ **International Programme Goal Management**
  Maximise an international recruitment team's ability to meet programme needs in a specific programme goal area; Line manage Volunteer & Programme Advisers (VPAs) from VSO's five recruitment bases for volunteer placements in a specific programme goal area; Contributes to programme development through input into VSO-wide Goal groups and by sharing learning amongst VPA's to help them feed into programme area planning and review processes
- ☐ **Programme and Partnership Development**
  Liase with Country Programme Offices / International Programme Group and other parts of VSO to identify and develop possible partnership possibilities in support of the volunteer sending programme
- ☐ **Human Resource Management (Volunteer Sending Programme)**
  Directly line-manage the volunteer sending programme team that includes recruitment, selection, training, supervision, support and appraisals of Programme Officers.
- ☐ **Finance & Administration**
  Monitor budget related to volunteer sending programme and development of annual VSO Bahaginan budget in collaboration with other managers; manage annual targets and workplans; manage medical and health programming aspects of volunteer sending programme, including both overseas and resettlement programme.

To manage the key responsibilities, the successful candidate should possess the following qualities:

- Minimum 5 years relevant work experience, preferably with voluntary sector;
- At least 5 years experience in supervising and leading a team;
- Preferably worked in a multi-cultural environment and international organization;
- Has experienced working with diverse cultural team;
- Knowledge and skill in programme development and funding;
- Excellent communication skills, good command of English language is essential;
- Possess very good writing and verbal presentation skills;
- Willing and able to make decisions;
- Able to work effectively with minimum supervision;
- Possess strong initiative, is resourceful and prepared to flexible;
- Computer literate;
- Excellent time management skills; and
- Willing and able to travel.

Application Closes	**14 April 2005**
Interview Date	**TBA**
Position Starts	**01 June 2005**

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

Interested applicants must read the full details of the job and accomplish the VSO Staff Application Form, which could be downloaded at www.geocities.com/vso_bahaginan.

All applicants to this post should write an explanatory note (no longer than two paragraphs totaling to 6-8 sentences) for each of the above job responsibilities, explaining why you believe you possess the qualities required for this post.

Please send accomplished VSO Staff Application Form and specify the **Job Code (PM)** to : **The Director at bahaginan@vsoint.org.**

VSO Bahaginan is an equal opportunities employer.

VSO Bahaginan is currently looking for a

TRAINING OFFICER (Job Code: TO)

Responsible to : Director, VSO Bahaginan
Responsible for : Managing the planning, development and delivery of effective, needs-driven training and learning support for volunteers.

Key responsibilities:

1. Analyse the training needs arising after the personal preparation courses for the volunteers recruited in Bahaginan
2. Suggest and arrange further Work Focussed preparation through self-briefing, phone briefing, face-to-face courses, etc. Liaise with Bahaginan Programme Manager when booking volunteers to courses.
3. Be responsible for maintaining an accurate computerised database to record each volunteer's training programme and be responsible for entering accurate information on to the database, as well as maintaining records in line with Data Protection legislation.
4. Analyse potential for running other Work focussed courses in Bahaginan
5. Analyse Skills for Working in Development (SKWID) course and manage the adaptation of the course to Bahaginan ensuring the agreed learning and training baselines are followed.
6. Run KWID pilot course in the base after a period of planning and preparation and evaluate its appropriateness vis-à-vis the existing Wider Role of Volunteer Courses (WRV)
7. Manage the Work focused training courses delivered in the base, recruit and prepare trainers, be responsible for providing logistical and administrative support.
8. Manage training delivery budget
9. Maintain PFC (or V&D) baselines and develop the contents accordingly by sharing experience from all the bases.
10. Seek, determine and represent the International Training Team 's (ITT) interests in Bahaginan and ensure they input to and are represented in organisational discussions about learning. Represent ITT in SEAsia (and other countries covered by National Volunteering support).
11. Be the point of contact for Volunteer Training and Support matters in that region (VSO volunteers, National Volunteering Programmes, etc.).
12. Be involved in international learning and training projects (e.g.: On going support of volunteers, Monitoring and Evaluation strategy, Strategic Learning needs analysis)
13. Attend IT,T workshop and Teleconferences.
14. Share good practice in the delivery of training and learning support

Essential Qualifications:

- Experienced trainer
- Good communication skills in English language (written & verbal)
- Experience of managing the work of others
- Able to relate well to and influence others
- Facilitation skills
- Able to prioritise and manage own work
- Able to effectively plan and implement training projects
- IT skills (Word, Excel and Powerpoint)
- Problem solving ability
- Training Management
- 1-2 years working Knowledge in a development programme
- Experienced working in a multi-cultural setting / environment
- Understanding of development issues
- Possess systematic approach to training
- Knowledge in write training objectives
- Knowledge in Participatory training techniques

Application Closes	**20 April 2005**
Interview Date	**TBA**
Position Starts	**01 June 2005**

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

Interested applicants must read the full details of the job and accomplish the VSO Staff Application Form, which could be downloaded at www.geocities.com/vso_bahaginan.

All applicants to this post should write an explanatory note (no longer than two paragraphs totaling to 5-7 sentences) for each of the above job responsibilities, explaining why you believe you possess the qualities required for this post.

Please send accomplished VSO Staff Application Form with a letter of intent and specify the **Job Code (TO)** to: **The Director at bahaginan@vsoint.org.**

VSO Bahaginan is an equal opportunities employer.

VSO Bahaginan is currently looking for a

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COORDINATOR

(Job Code: FAC)

Responsible to : Manager, Finance and Administration
Responsible for : Coordinating and providing finance and administrative support to the operations of VSO Bahaginan

Key Responsibilities

Office administration

1. Process and respond to general office inquiries;
2. Provide administrative support to VSO Bahaginan's National volunteering programmes, Global Exchange programmes and operations;
3. Provide general office support on purchase of office supplies, inventory and office maintenance

Logistics

1. Make all logistical arrangements related to VSO Bahaginan's Board Meeting activities.
2. Make all logistical arrangements related to staff travel

Human Resources

1. To contribute to and provide administrative support to the delivery of VSO Bahaginan's Human Resource strategy;

Financial

1. To perform basic bookkeeping functions;
2. To provide support for the financial administration of VSO Bahaginan

General

As a member of the staff of VSO Bahaginan, the Finance and Administration Coordinator is expected to work effectively as part of a small staff team, and in particular to:

1. Undertake specific additional responsibilities from time-to-time, as may be agreed upon with the Manager of Finance and Administration;
2. Contribute to the general discussion of issues relating to VSO Bahaginan's programs
3. Provide cover to other staff as needed.

To manage the key responsibilities, the successful candidate should possess the following qualities:

- Minimum 2 years relevant work experience in the field of administration, finance and general services, preferably with an NGO;
- Excellent communication skills, good command of English language is essential;
- Able to work effectively with minimum supervision;
- Possess strong initiative, is resourceful and prepared to be flexible;
- Computer literate, proficient in the use of accounting software

Application Closes	:	**10 April 2005**
Interview Date	:	**15 April 2005**
Position Starts	:	**02 May 2005**

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

Interested applicants must read the full details of the job and accomplish the VSO Staff Application Form, which could be downloaded at www.geocities.com/vso_bahaginan.

Please send accomplished VSO Staff Application Form and specify the **Job Code (FAC)** to: **The Finance and Admin Manager at bahaginan@vsoint.org.**

VSO Bahaginan is an equal opportunities employer.

Jardine Davies

Jardine Davies is one of the longest established marketing companies in the Philippines and is exclusive distributor for market leading construction supply brands including Solignum, Thoroseal and Lentrek.

Refocus of our Marketing and Distribution strategies coupled with continued high demand for our products has created the need for:

SENIOR SALES REPRESENTATIVES (3)

Based: Manila, North & South Luzon

The appointees will lead sales, marketing and promotion activities to support our existing Dealer network in servicing Retailers and end users. Responsibilities will also include arranging and hosting of trade and industry seminars and product presentations.

Applicants should desirably have a construction material sales background and / or have experience in the selling of fast moving consumer products. They must be able to demonstrate stability and development within their careers to date.

A college degree is desirable. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required and very importantly, applicants must have outgoing personalities and be enthusiastic self-starters.

Competitive salary packages and benefits with a structured training and career path are offered to outstanding applicants.

Please send resumé **(including current salary details)** by post, email or fax to:

Ms. Nanette Poblador
Jardine Davies Inc.
222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
E-mail: HRD@jdigroup.com / Fax No. 844-7022

Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

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- Must have at least Eight (8) years work experience in detailing and construction drawing
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- Knowledge of Arabic, Persian, Vietnamese and Chinese language would be an advantage
- Must be male, 40 years old and above
- Hardworking, can work long hours and on Weekends
- Honest with Integrity
- Can work with pressure/with sense of urgency

Architectural Designer / Renderers

- At least with five (5) yrs. work experience
- Male/Female Architecture graduate
- Articulate in English
- Knowledge of Arabic, Persian, Vietnamese and Chinese language would be an advantage
- Hardworking, willing to be assigned abroad/ can work long hours and on weekends
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Structural Engineer

- Must be LICENSED CIVIL ENGINEER
- Must have at least five (5) yrs. work experience in the following trades:

  A. CADD drafting of Structural plans
  B. Quantity cost estimation
  C. Structural design and detailing

- Must be above 27 yrs. old
- Must be honest and hardworking
- Articulate in English
- Willing to work long hours and on weekends
- Willing to be assigned abroad
- Can work with pressure/with sense of urgency

Chief Accountant

- Graduate of BS Accounting course, CPA
- Experience in an Auditing firm would be an advantage
- Female , 27 – 35 yrs. old
- Experience in handling Tax procedures an advantage
- Can handle work pressures, with strong planning, organizational and leadership/supervisory ability

Assistant Specifications Writer

- Female, 22 – 30 yrs. old
- With knowledge in Construction Materials & Estimates
- Computer literate
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Honest with Integrity
- Hardworking, can work long hours

Mechanical /Electrical / Sanitary Engineer

- Must be LICENSED ELECTRICAL ENGINEER / MECHANICAL ENGINEER or SANITARY
- Must have at least five (5) yrs. work experience in design and supervision of their respective trades
- Articulate in English
- Knowledge of Arabic, Persian, Vietnamese and Chinese language would be an advantage
- Must be honest and hardworking
- Willing to work long hours and on weekends
- Willing to be assigned abroad

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND IN THEIR RESUME WITH RECENT 2X2 PICTURE, A COPY OF TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND NBI CLEARANCE TO THE ADDRESS BELOW INDICATING THE POSITION APPLIED FOR:

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✉ *ogjacinto@loyolaplans.com*

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1971 G/F Mark I Bldg. Taft Ave., Malate, Manila
☎ 526-0365. 522-2803 to 06
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Pasig Office
Rommel C. Ostil, Sales & Marketing Dir.
G/F Karina Bldg. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
☎ 634-6824. 634-6859. 634-8193
✉ *rcostil@loyolaplans.com*

Taguig Office
Fil Q. Moreno, Sales & Marketing Dir.
3rd flr. LPI Bldg. 849 Arnaiz Ave., Makati City
☎ 813-3714. 8926061 to 65 local 306
✉ *fqmoreno@loyolaplans.com*

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Tomas Morato Office
Welhelm TS. Castroverde, Sales & Marketing Dir.
74 Tomas Morato Creek Side Square, Quezon City
☎ 722-8171. 722-4932. 721-2107. 721-2057. 727-4535
✉ *wtscastroverde@loyolaplans.com*

Orsel Office
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Quezon City
☎ 924-2844
✉ *tcyu@loyolaplans.com*

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☎ (075) 515-5135. 523-4295. 522-7566
✉ *rdbugarin@loyolaplans.com*

Cagayan Valley Office
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Santiago City, Cagayan Valley
☎ (078) 682-7981. 682-8356
✉ *apbuza@loyolaplans.com*

San Fernando Office
Vicente R. Tuason III, Sales & Marketing Dir.
2/F Ascorp Bldg., McArthur Highway
Dolores, San Fernando City, Pampanga
☎ (045) 961-8210 to 11
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☎ (042) 373-5870. 373-3420
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Bicol Office
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☎ (052) 480-5886. 820-6277. 820-6227
✉ *emladines@loyolaplans.com*

Alabang Office
Karl Marc A. Co, Sales & Marketing Dir.
Rm. 1203-1204 Alabang Business Tower I
Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang
Muntinlupa City
☎ 809-1359 to 60
✉ *kmaco@loyolaplans.com*

Bacoor Office
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✉ *djalmazar@loyolaplans.com*

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3/F GSO Bldg., Quezon National Hi-way
Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu
☎ (032) 340-5912 to 14
✉ *seabugho@loyolaplans.com*

Bacolod Office
Josef D. Nava Jr., Sales & Marketing Dir.
LPI Bldg., Hilado-Malaspina Sts.,
Shopping Area, Bacolod City
☎ (034) 433-4864. 434-5384. 434-1261
✉ *jdnava@loyolaplans.com*

Tacloban City Office
Sherwin D. Olimpo, Sales & Marketing Dir.
LPCI Bldg., 117 P. Burgos St., Tacloban City
☎ (053) 321-4787. 321-2100
✉ sdolimpo@loyolaplans.com

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Nelson T. Paglinawan, Exec. Sales Director
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✉ *ntpaglinawan@loyolaplans.com*

Cagayan Office
Nador J. Nacua, Sales & Marketing Dir.
3/F Marel II Bldg.,Tiano-Gomez St.,
Cagayan de Oro City
☎ (08822) 729-512. 857-5605. 728-126
✉ *njnacua@loyolaplans.com*

Davao City
Michael M. Ramos, Sales & Marketing Dir.
LPCI Bldg., 1011 Mt. Apo St., Davao City
☎ (082) 227-4243. 227-4337. 224-1867
✉ *mmramos@loyolaplans.com*

HEAD OFFICE:
7/F Office of the SVP-Strategic Sales Div.
LPI Bldg., 849 A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City
☎ 812-3406. 840-4570
✉ *nrbdelrosario@loyolaplans.com*

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text @ 0920-9LOYOLA
(569652)

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The International Academy of Film and Television, Inc. (IAFT), the 1st private Film School in Southeast Asia dedicated in developing future filmmakers of the world is currently looking for competent individuals to fill in the following positions:

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Job Summary:

Under the direction of the CEO and Chief Operating Officer shall be responsible for the overall direction and administration of the academic, marketing, finance, human resources, production, and technical functions of the organization.

Qualifications:

- 15+ years of management and 5+ years as top level executive
- Experience in film and TV industry on international level
- Distribution, marketing, and finance background a plus
- Experience working with and managing multi-nationals
- Strong organizational and communications skills essential
- Fluent in English
- Highly energized and flexible
- Willing to nurture the growing issues of a start-up company
- Master's Degree in Business Administration

VP for PRODUCTION SERVICES

Job Summary:

The Vice President for Production Services shall be responsible for organizing, planning, creating strategy for Bigfoot Production Services which includes soundstage, post facilities, post production and production outsourcing work. Scope also includes marketing, operations and management of all services to be offered.

Qualifications:

- 5+ years experience in managing soundstage facilities and equipment
- Experience in sales and marketing is a plus
- 10+ years management background in production services
- Understanding of media formats including new media, film, video, digital, hi-def
- Understanding of international marketplace/ clients
- Outstanding written, verbal and email communication skills
- Fluent in English

VP for PRODUCTION

Job Summary:

The Vice President for Production shall be responsible for organizing, planning, creating strategy for Bigfoot Productions including hiring and managing producers, overseeing productions, coordinating with production services. Job will also liaise with internal and external clients concerning production requirements.

Qualifications:

- 5+ years as head of production
- 5+ years experience managing post-production facilities
- Knowledge of project management principles, techniques, and tools
- Ability to supervise and train employees, to include organizing, prioritizing, and scheduling work assignments
- Must possess strong organizational and people relation skills
- Knowledge of finance, accounting, budgeting, and cost control procedures
- Able to communicate effectively through written or verbal media

Interested applicants may send their application letter and resumé to: jobs@study-film.com Visit us at: www.studyfilm.com

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myAyala.com, Inc. is a member of the Ayala Group of Companies. As a pioneer in the field of e-commerce and online shopping, we are in need of highly competent, disciplined and creative individuals who can fit the following positions:

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Qualifications/Skills:
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Responsibilities:
In charge of setting up, growing and managing a flower shop. Develop and implement tactical and strategic plans for a flower shop.

2. Florist

Qualifications/Skills:
Must have at least 2 years experience in arranging flowers. Must be able to creatively design and execute different flower arrangements and styles.

Responsibilities:
Ensure proper production, quality control and handling of various flower arrangement/products.

3. Technical Support staff.

Qualifications/Skills:
Must have a working knowledge in network configuration, TCP/IP, computer troubleshooting, data base handling and maintenance. W-LAN/WI-FI, SQL and ASP background required. Must be able to handle customer support.

Responsibilities:
Maintain network and system hardware. Address customer queries. Manage database

Submit applications via email to <moya.bon@myayala.com> fax <8132414> or mail to myAyala.com M/F Greenbelt 1 Mall Ayala Center Makati City 1228 before April 8, 2005.

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AUDIT STAFF

- Preferably Male
- Bachelor of Science in Accountancy (BSA)
- Computer literate
- 25-30 years old
- Must have experience in audit works

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Single/Female: 25-30 years old
- Computer literate
- Must be a college degree holder
- With pleasing personality
- Proficient in written and oral Communications
- Fluent in English (oral/written)
- Able to work in minimal supervision
- At least with 2 years experience in same line of work

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The person we are looking for should possess the following qualifications:

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2. With 2 years experience in both marketing and market research functions as follows:
   - conduct market & industry studies for consumer goods
   - prepare marketing presentations to customers
   - oversee market research projects (FGDs, product testings, etc.)
3. Good work attitude, positive disposition and pleasant personality
4. Computer literate (Excel, Powerpoint, Access)

Qualified applicants may send on or before April 1, 2005 their application letter and comprehensive resumé with 1x1 photo to:

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c/o Phil. Daily Inquirer
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- Must be a L E T passer
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- Proficient in English

Interested applicants are requested to submit the following:

- Letter of Intent with resumé and 2x2 picture
- Transcript of Records
- At least 3 Professional References

Preferably residing Pasig Area
Contact Person. *Ms. Mar Ocampo*

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- The job entails analyzing and evaluating creditability of companies, conducting credit administration and market risk management
- Candidates with management accounting background preferred

Corporate Finance Associate

- The job entails the preparation of credit application, establishing credit rating, documentation and monitoring
- Experience in conducting industrial research, corporate finance, credit analysis and credit administration an advantage

All candidates for the above positions must be business degree holders, with excellent interpersonal and communication skills and proficient in computer applications.

Interested and qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumes with photo and transcript of records at:

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- Must be Third Mate or Fourth Engineer Officer.
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Please bring documents and report personally to:

Capt. Ivar Thomasli – Sr. Vice President DL: 551-1525
Ms. Cristina G. Paras – AGM/Q.A Manager DL: 551-9095
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- College degree in Communications, Journalism or English
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft applications
- Good interpersonal skills and positive work attitude
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- Adept in auditing reports preparation
- Can work under pressure and extended hours.
- Good command of the English language.

Applicants are requested to personally handcarry their resumé with latest picture not later than **April 31, 2005** at:

CTC Bldg., 2232 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
(near Dept. of Foreign Affairs)
(Please look for Melai – Personnel Section)
or **Call: 551-7530**

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BAYER

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All applicants should have the following qualifications:

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- Solid Understanding of Micro-Economic Processes and Product Management Dynamics

Skills:
- Good Technical Understanding
- Good Behavior College Graduate preferably Business or Marketing courses/Social Competence
- Ability to interact / deal with people at all levels

Other Qualifications:
- Male / Female, 28-35 years old

Our Marketing Group is in need of:

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All applicants should have the following qualifications:

Education:
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- Or other courses with minimum 5 years experience in Crop Protection Sales/Promotions

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*** Fluent in reading and writing Japanese; has excellent English communication skills**

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The Regional Assistant and Marketing insight Manager will operate and leverage strategic CMI projects. He/She will manage and consolidate market research projects for key innovations. This involves efficient management of the technical, financial and human resources to meet the agreed marketing and business targets. He/She will be responsible for inputs to Quail and Quanti testing for concept development, advertising development, product and packaging tests. He/She will also be responsible for facilitating and documenting direct consumer contact initiates and consumer immersion programs. The successful candidate is expected to explore and identify new media opportunities to deliver competitive advantage at point of purchase.

QUALIFICATIONS

a) Education
   - College Graduate, preferably with honors

b) Relevant Experience
   - At least 2 years experience in Marketing and Project Management

c) Professional Skills
   - Adept in managing both quantitative and qualitative research

d) Competencies
   - Strategic influencing, Clarity of Purpose, Objective Analytical Power

ASSISTANT BRAND MANAGER

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a) Education
   - College Graduate, preferably with honors, has strong academic and leadership background

b) Relevant Experience
   - At least 2 years of solid background in Brand and Project Management

c) Competencies
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Room 509 Asia Pacific College Building
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Syngenta Phils. Inc.
Human Resource Department
8F Salustiana Bldg.
104 Paseo de Roxas Avenue
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Or e-mail it to hradmin.cp@syngenta.com

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3) Photocopy of Transcript of Records

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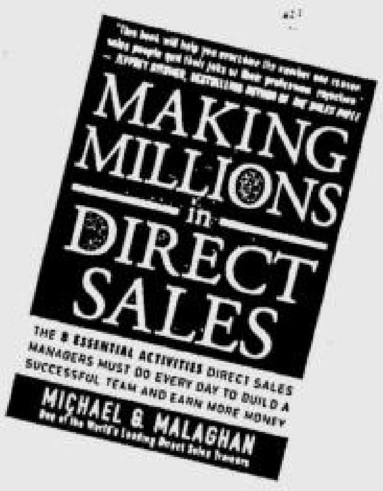
Malaghan will be flying to Manila from the US in May to conduct his sales management development programs with the European Chamber of Commerce and Training Works. For more information on his programs, call tel. no. 937-0376.

Submitting your resumé to www.mytrabaho.com will also enable employers to view your resumés for vacancies in their companies. Log on now!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Switzerland remains a world model for safe cities with high quality of life

By Thomas Wagner
Associated Press Writer

LONDON—Luxembourg is the world's safest city, but Swiss cities lead the way for combining safety with high quality of life, according to a survey released Monday.

The Swiss cities of Bern, Geneva and Zurich ranked just behind Luxembourg for safety, along with the Finnish capital, Helsinki, said the survey conducted by Mercer Human Resource Consulting.

When it comes to overall quality of life, Geneva and Zurich share the lead; followed by Vancouver, Canada, and Vienna, Austria, tied for third; and the German cities of Frankfurt, Munich and Duesseldorf in joint fifth.

The safety survey evaluated 215 locations for crime levels and internal stability.

In the United States, the five safest cities tied in 45th place — Honolulu; Houston; Lexington, Kentucky; San Francisco; and Winston Salem, North Carolina. New York was 58th, while Atlanta had the lowest US ranking at 90.

In Britain, the top-ranked city as far as safety is concerned is Glasgow, Scotland (39), followed by Birmingham (51) and London (69).

"The top-ranking cities for personal safety and security are in politically stable countries with good international relations and sustainable economic growth," said Slagin Parakatil, senior researcher at Mercer. "Most of the low-scoring cities are in countries with civil unrest, little law enforcement and high levels of crime."

The Iraqi capital, Baghdad, was ranked the world's least safe city, followed by Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Bangui, Central African Republic; the Nigerian cities of Port Harcourt and Lagos; and Bogota, Colombia.

In its overall quality-of-life survey, Mercer evaluated 39 criteria such as crime, health, education and transport.

Other cities at the top in that category are Auckland, New Zealand; Bern; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Sydney, Australia.

Honolulu and San Francisco ranked highest in the United States at joint 25th, while New York and London tied at 39th.

In Asia, the top three cities were Singapore and Tokyo, both 34th, and Yokohama, Japan (36).

In South America, the top quality-of-life cities are Montevideo, Uruguay (76) and Buenos Aires, Argentina (78). ***AP***

On the Net: www.mercerhr.com/qualityofliving

How do you pay ...

From page 11

career.

"Think about why this professional person is coming to you for work. It's not about being overqualified; it's about being able to put food on the table, buy clothes for the kids and get by until things turn around, and at the end of the day, isn't that something we can all appreciate? Sincerely, Catch-22"

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—Companies should hire the person with the most credentials, 3.6 percent

—Companies should hire whomever they please, 19.7 percent

—Companies should hire the best person for the specific job, 76.6 percent

(*Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

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THE STRATEGIC Training and Development Program is an extensive 10-day (April 4-5, 11- 12, 18-20, 25-27) course conducted by the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD) aimed at developing the competencies of HR professionals and managers in designing, facilitating, and evaluating training in their organizations. With the aid of adult learning methodologies, participants are able to hone their skills in delivering and facilitating training programs.

At the end of the program, participants are expected to acquire key presentation and facilitation skills, develop a strategic training and development plan, formulate a training design and evaluation plan, and conduct process observation analysis.

Highlights of this program include studies on the competencies of Filipino trainers and attitudes towards training from the perspective of non-trainers.

For more information or reservations, contact: Ateneo CORD, 2nd floor, Höffner Building, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or call (632) 426-5931, 426-6282 or fax to no. (632) 426-6065. Send e-mail to ateneocord@admu.edu.ph or visit http://www.ateneocord.org.

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Covey: 'See yourself as an instrument of God's work'

From page 11

all the principles that you talked about?

Covey: To put God at the center of their life and thereby, become principle-centered.

PaW: When and how did you realize that this was going to be your mission—to bring about God-centered and principle-centered leadership around the world—and how did it come about?

Covey: I was going to go into a family business, a very successful business, going over four states—hotels, motels, gas and oil, and I was kind of the heir apparent to go into it. Then, I went on a mission for my Church over in Great Britain and the leader told me, "I want you to train leaders." I was only 20 but I graduated from college already. These people were three times my age and I said, "I can't do that. I have no idea how to do that." He said, "Don't worry about it. You can do it. I'll give you some materials to prepare and I think if you get them together just to share best practices with each other, that's all we really need in this meeting. You have six weeks to prepare." So I said, "Alright if you feel that I can." Once I got into that, I started to see. "Wow, this is impacting people for good. That's much more my line of business." So I changed, I wanted to become a teacher. Then, I said to my father after I finished Harvard Business School, "I think I would rather be a teacher than go into business." And he said to me, "I sustain that if that's really what you want to do. But I planned you to take over the business." And I said, "How do you feel about that?" He didn't tell me right then but you know what I found out? He never found his voice in business either. His voice was in his basement. He was writing a book, which was an interdisciplinary study of history, philosophy, theology, art and architecture, and proposed this Center, showing the integration of all these things. And that was where his heart was. Before he died, he said to me, "I can't tell you what your work as a teacher means to me."

PaW: If there is one thing you would do differently, what would that be?

Covey: I wouldn't have crammed in school. So literally, when I was doing my doctorate, I had to get the equivalent of my undergraduate. I had to go back and learn so many basic things that I wish had known. And even when I went to get my Ph.D., I wanted to write a philosophical dissertation on Abraham Maslow and they wouldn't let me do it. They said, "You don't even know enough to ask the right questions to write a philosophical dissertation. You're going to have to do an empirical study." But they were right. It was kind of a comeuppance and a little threatening to my ego but I needed it.

PaW: So I guess now you've tried not to let your children do cramming.

Covey: No. I have encouraged every one of them. In fact, you know what we do? We have them to teach us what they're learning. They are all top students. No external motivation at all. They all love education. They are top students. I have to hand it to my wife. She spent most nights having the children teach her what they learned in school. Most of her nights were spent doing that for 30 years. She couldn't teach them. She couldn't pass their tests but she was trying to have them teach her.

PaW: Where do you find the time to write the books?

Covey: Basically, I give speeches and record them and then I edit the speeches.

PaW: How about the seven habits? *(The course came before the book.)*

Covey: The course came from interacting with audiences all over the world, walking around. You see, I don't usually stand up here like this. I walk around. Take a lot of questions. I love questions. I love interaction a lot. Most of my clients were organizations so I could interact with them. I'm moving more and more to these kinds of presentations so they're less interactive.

PaW: When we look at our own situation, we always tell ourselves that we need to balance our career and our family. Is there something wrong with that statement?

Covey: No. I think that's very good. I try to do that. I think that recently, you could fault me on that. There have just been so many forces that have come together that I think I have not paid similar attention to my family. In fact, I'm going to do that as soon as I get back. How many people did we have here—2,000? Anyway, when I go back, the first thing I'm going to say during our Thanksgiving dinner is that all those people were cheering for you (referring to his grandson whose football game he missed because of his trip to the Philippines).

'I feel like giving up'

From page 11

Lincoln, voted by most Americans as their greatest president, failed miserably in business and in politics. His story is that of a born loser, never winning in any local or national election, until he was elected president. Then, he made a great career out of the presidency.

Postponed success

Thomas Edison, the great inventor, failed a thousand times on his way to inventing many of the most useful things we have today. But he looked at every failure as a postponed success. He said, "I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is another step forward." Every time he fails in his experiment, he discovers a wrong way to do it and thinks that the next could be the right move.

People react to setbacks in a number of ways. The most common reaction is anger. Whenever some people fail, they blame everybody—except themselves. Anger is all right as an initial reaction. It lets out unwanted emotion inside us. But successful people move from this reaction stage quickly enough to realize that prolonged anger will not do them any good. Anger can often lead to unwarranted confrontations that eventually force powers-that-be to blacklist a person.

Reactions to setbacks

However, if anger is properly handled, it can move the person to recover his wits fast enough to see the other problems coming his way. Failure doesn't usually come alone—and anger blinds a person from seeing anger's companions.

Another reaction to a setback is apathy or indifference. Compared with anger, apathy has no fireworks, but the latter has deleterious effects as well. One loses his appetite for life and settles for whatever comes his way. Obviously, this reaction does not help one to move forward. With the onset of apathy, one is bound to just do the minimum expected of him in his work. He never looks beyond today or his present task. This reaction begets more career setbacks.

Surrender is giving up the fight and saying goodbye to success. This is a no-win situation. As I've often said, if you think you are beaten, you are.

Recovering from setbacks

When setbacks strike you anywhere in your career path, here are a number of tips you can follow:

1.Never give up. Choose to weave the setback into your career history, rather than make it the end of your career life's story. Everyone who succeeded has a setback to talk about. So, what's your problem? Accept that setbacks can happen to you, keep your poise, and don't give up. Just remember that it happens to the best of them. So, what makes you so special to be exempt from temporary setbacks?

2.Feel whatever comes up. Let your emotions come to fore. Feel the sting of failure. Let it remind you that it is better to succeed than to fail. Want the feeling of success. Detest failing.

3.Process what happened. Analyze why you did not succeed. Look inside you before you blame others. What did you do wrong? What else could you have done to succeed? Understand the playing field—has anything changed in the rules, in the players, in the game itself?

4.Put the experience in perspective. Look at the setback from all points of view. If somebody else got promoted instead of you, look at it from the decision-makers' point of view. If you're Manny Pacquiao, review the bout's tape, not just the tale of the tape before the bout. There are stories that you see on hindsight—that's why hindsight is the best sight.

5. Move forward. There's no point crying over spilt milk. Don't be bitter. Resolve to be better. Use the setback as a steppingstone to your future. You know now what won't work—be wiser, sharper and more determined. Look to the future—that's where you will spend the rest of your life.

So, it all boils down to how you perceive your experience. You can call it a failure and savor the bitter feelings of defeat, agony and helplessness. Or you can call it a temporary setback, a short detour towards success, and then move on wiser and with greater resolve to succeed. Will this experience be the end of the road for you or has it made you smarter and closer to your success? Obviously, the choice is yours!

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

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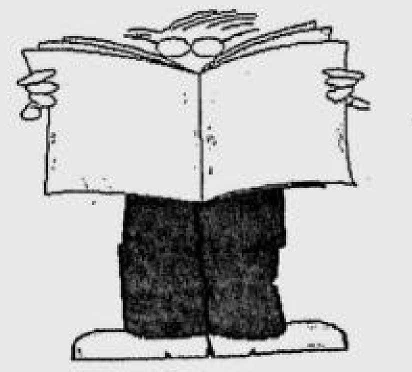

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Understanding Magdalene

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

THE MUSIC of the song Magdalena played in my mind when I focus on the selected Gospel verse of today. The lyrics of the song obviously refer to the "oldest profession," which any decent society casts a slur on. Work is deemed so important in a person's life that society would normally identify the person with the kind of profession he practices. One who pursues a "noble" profession is looked up to and respected by people, while the "Magdalenas" are considered "*kalapating mababa ang lipad, sawimpalad.*" But who can rightfully judge the worth of a person? The chorus of the song, with a soul-piercing tone and lyrics asks a similar question, "*Magdalena...kailan ka nila maiintindihan.* (Magdalena...when will they understand you?)"

God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead, "understands" Mary Magdalene (the person referred to by the said song) who loved Jesus, the Savior, so much as to abandon her old ways. Magdalene believed in and followed Him till His death on the cross and His tomb. And He gifted her with the singular honor as the first to witness the great event of the Resurrection. God looks at Magdalene, and at each one of us, not for what we do (our jobs, profession or work) but for what we are—the love we have, deep in our hearts, which determines the quality of our actions.

We too, can rightly understand ourselves, other people and the role of work in life, if we exchange and adopt God's perspective, by believing and accepting the Lord Jesus in our lives and by uniting ourselves with His life, death and above all His resurrection! (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net.)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

John 20: 1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb

A champion of women

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

HERE'S a brainteaser: Did Jesus choose to show His empty tomb first to women? I'd like to think He did, as I'd like to believe that He, being a champion of human liberation, respected woman as man's equal, even in His time when woman "knew her place" in a male-dominated society.

What a blessing it would be if women had men like Jesus as coworkers and bosses! Jesus was everything a woman could want in a man at the workplace. He was masterful without being condescending, emphatic but not nagging. He was a faultless leader who reprimanded without confronting, but also praised without patronizing. With words that could cut through your soul, He could expose you to the truth about yourself while protecting you from the harsh judgment of others.

As a man who took women seriously He was not one to dismiss their questions, complaints, arguments or compliments as "silly women's stuff." Without the haughtiness that could have been the mark of men so chaste, He taught other men how to regard women with a clean heart. Having no masculine ego to be defensive about, He never chided women to be feminine. As one who respected children, He never told women to limit the number of their children in order to be fulfilled as persons. Jesus was fair and just to women because He saw the persons inside the women; He wasn't sexist—He looked at men and women and saw their souls, not their sexes. Thus, He saw women as children of His Father, recipients of the same love and mercy He has for each and every human being ever created. His resurrection is proof beyond doubt of this exemplary attitude of Jesus towards women: remember, the first to behold His empty tomb was a reformed prostitute. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com.)

Covey: 'See yourself as an instrument of God's work'

By Cecile Deato and Cat Sugay
Contributors

(Stephen R. Covey is probably one of the most admired leadership gurus in this century. His influence started when his book, "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," became number one on the New York Times Bestseller List with more than 1.5 million copies sold. The book is published in over 20 countries and in a dozen languages, including Japanese, German, French, Chinese and Spanish. His other books are "First Things First," "Principle-Centered Leadership," "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families" and the latest, "The 8th Habit: From Effectiveness to Greatness."

Dr. Covey has taught leadership principles and management skills for more than 25 years to leaders in business, government and education. His consulting portfolio contains more than 150 of the Fortune 500 companies, as well as thousands of midsized and smaller organizations.

Covey received an MBA from Harvard and a doctorate from Brigham Young University, where he was professor of Organizational Behavior and Business Management.

When Dr. Covey came to Manila last September, People at Work writers were able to get a glimpse of the not-so-public side of the leadership guru. Below is the gist of the interview.)

People at Work (PaW): What is it about you, about your words, the way you are, that has this very powerful influence on people?

Covey: I don't think it's much about me. I honestly believe that you don't do God's work. He does His work through you. And so, you have to see yourself as an instrument of His work. That's where the power source is. Because these principles are really common sense.

PaW: Yes, they have been there for years.

Covey: I know.

PaW: But you have put them in simple but powerful words.

Covey: I think another key thing is the way they are sequenced because you cannot have the public victory without the private victory. One comes ahead of the other. It really does.

PaW: It cannot be the other way around?

Covey: It can't. You try to fake it publicly but what if your inside is full of duplicity and hypocrisy, you can't do it. You can't sustain it. All you do is make a cotton candy show—it tastes good and it's gone.

PaW: You say it came from Him, God is working through you. But then there's also the practical side because Stephen Covey is a business already. It's an institution by itself. Right?

Covey: Right.

PaW: So is there no conflict between the business part and the ministry part?

Covey: None at all because those are the four parts—to live, to love, to learn and to leave a legacy. So, the economic side is a very, very important part. It gives you growth so that you can sustain everything else that takes place.

PaW: How do you fit it in all together?

Covey: You involve everybody in coming out with a mission statement. Our mission statement is to enable greatness in people and organizations everywhere. Our vision is to influence billions of people. Our beliefs are in people, in principles and in the power of inside-out (character in other words), moral authority and our values represent living what we teach,

COVEY

taking care of our customers in beautiful ways and treating all of our coworkers and suppliers as partners, as equal partners and growing profitably, which enables the rest to take place.

PaW: How would you like to be remembered?

Covey: I guess as a good father and grandfather, first. Second, as someone who takes principle-centered leadership around the world—principle-centered leading and leadership.

PaW: The measure of a seminar's success is for people to walk away with something. If there is one thing you would want us to walk away with, what would that be—among

COVEY /P. 10★

How do you pay the bills when no one will hire you because you're overqualified?

DEAR Readers: Below is an e-mail from a reader who is unemployed and broke. He's frustrated because he believes employers don't want to hire someone with a professional background for an entry level job.

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

"Dear Working Wounded: I'm an Information Technology professional who has been looking for work for several months. Unfortunately, like many professional people, my area of expertise is something of a niche in the job market and opportunities are proving hard to come by. Consequently, I have been trying to find other local work (a temp job, part-time work, etc.) to make ends meet until I can get back into my profession.

"Unfortunately, I have encountered an unforeseen obstacle, one that I feel warrants some attention. As soon as some employers realize you are an out-of-work "professional' (by way of your resumé and work history), they are reluctant to hire you for work that they may consider 'below your station.' I've been told 'You're only going to work here as long as you have to, and as soon as opportunity knocks, you'll be gone.' I've even tried to be honest and up front with prospective employers about why I am applying for their employment opportunities, but to no avail.

"This situation is almost like a 'spin-off' of the traditional scenario where you can't get a lower-level job in your own profession because you are viewed as 'overqualified' and employers anticipate that you won't stick around. I can certainly understand why an employer may need to think about investing in the training of a new person in their organization and having them stay for the long-term, but some of the positions I have looked into have little or no learning curve (and as such, has no up front investment).

"I've also considered the possibility that some people may even be intimidated by having a professional person in their midst, as they may feel insecure or threatened by working with or having to manage such an individual, or may even feel that this person will make them look inferior by comparison. Employers need to realize that people in all vocations are being impacted by the current economy and resulting job markets, and that when they hire a professional person (on any basis), they'll be hiring an intelligent, responsible individual who will conform to and perform the job that they have hired them for with the same level of diligence as they would put toward their own professional

HOW DO /P. 9★

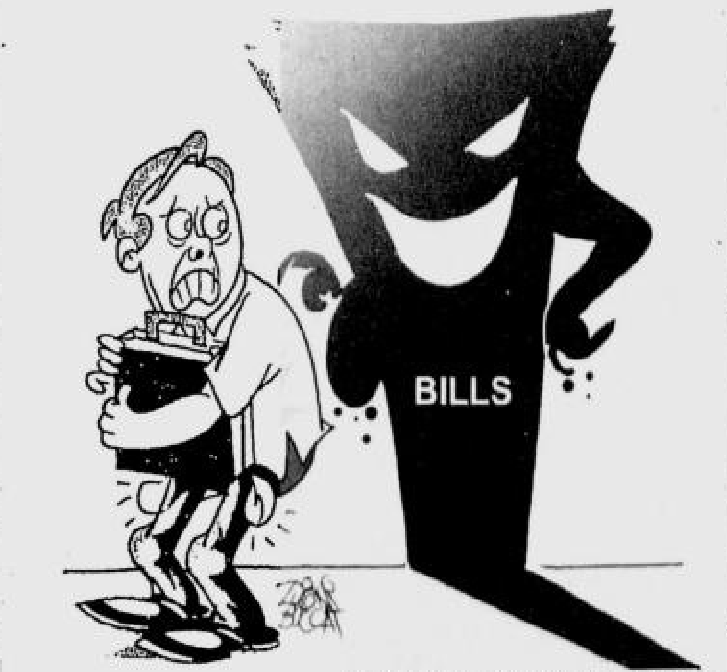


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

'I feel like giving up'

By Ernie O. Cecilia, FPM

I HAVE read your column about the "triple bypass" victim and I can commiserate with him. Recently, I had a similar experience and it was very devastating for me. My boss seems partial to his newly hired hotshots and has totally forgotten us who have long served the company. Doesn't loyalty count anymore? Whatever happened to seniority? What are the new rules in promotion, if any?

I feel so depressed that I just want to resign. In my 10 years with the company, my boss has never given me any inspiration to work harder. Shall I give up now? What can I do to overcome this depressing debacle in my career?

Depressed and Beaten

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

A career, just like life, is not always a bed of roses. As you travel on your career path, there will always be obstacles. In fact, many successful career persons have been through difficult and depressing situations in their careers. Of course, everyone wishes for a smooth travel onwards. That perfect situation in one's career is simply too good to be true, except if you are the COO or "child of the owner."

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

I remember somebody said, "My life is a long obstacle course ... and I found that the biggest obstacle of all is me." Blessed are those who realize this and can do something about "the biggest obstacle of all."

Not for your convenience

I began to have greater peace within me and with other people the moment I accepted the fact that this world was never made for my convenience. Bosses are people, too. People love themselves first—others second. I still have to see a boss whose sole, consuming desire in life is to promote all his subordinates. Many bosses try to develop their people so that there will be available replacements when they are considered for a higher position. Not for altruistic motives!

Another failure of bosses is that they don't always have 20-20 vision, peripheral vision, or extrasensory perception. You have to practically "brag" about your accomplishments so that you can be noticed. It's not a bad idea to help your boss see that you are a good performer and that you have the potential to take over his post. Failing that, bosses will look elsewhere for people to promote. Worse, they look outside to infuse new blood into the organization.

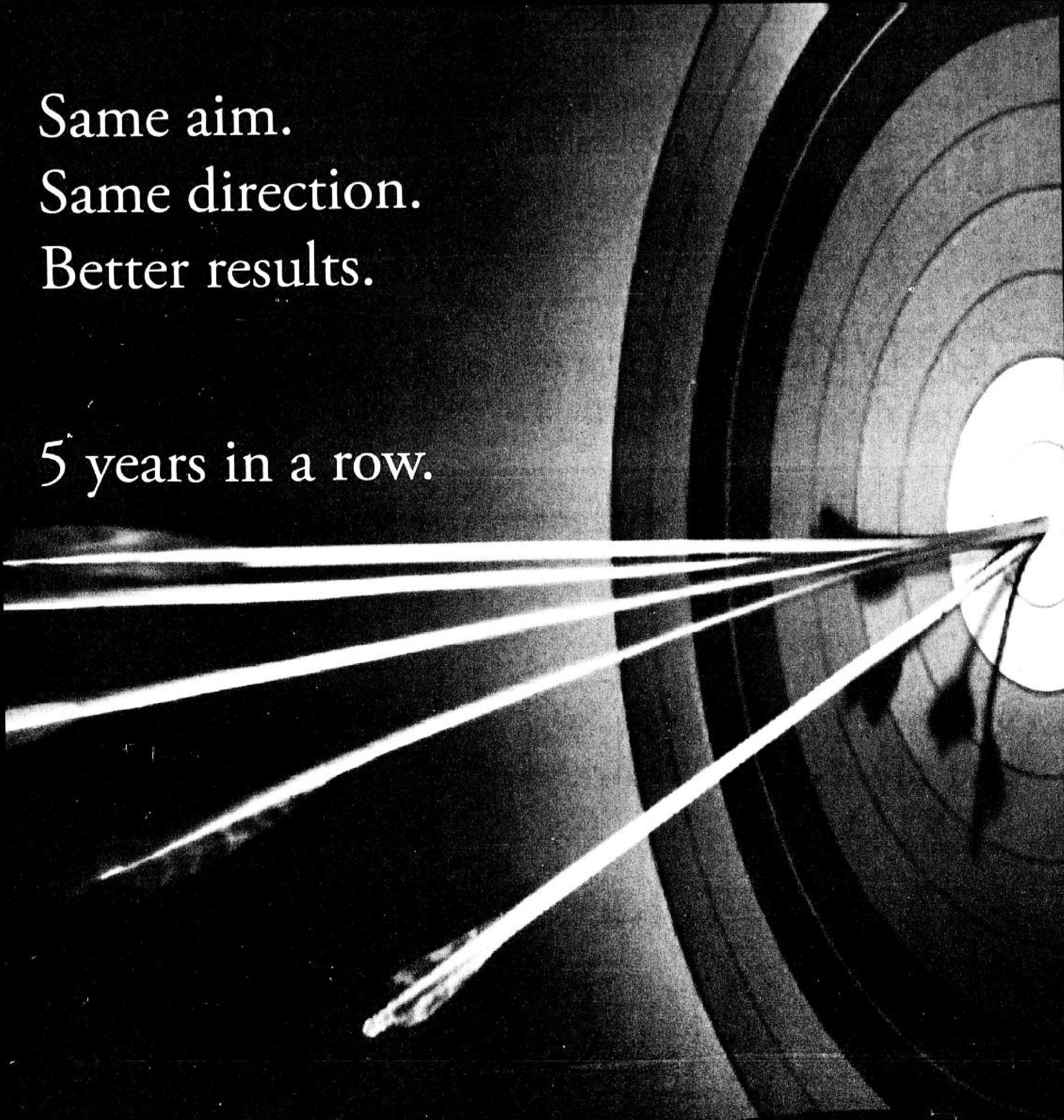
Viewing the boss

Is the boss an obstacle? Maybe, yes, but he can also be the greatest push you'll ever need in your career. Just learn how to play the career game.

Now, let's talk a little bit more about setbacks. There are two ways of looking at these—consider them total failures or detours to success.

History is replete with stories of great men who overcame defeats and turned out victorious in the end. Abe

I FEEL /P. 10★



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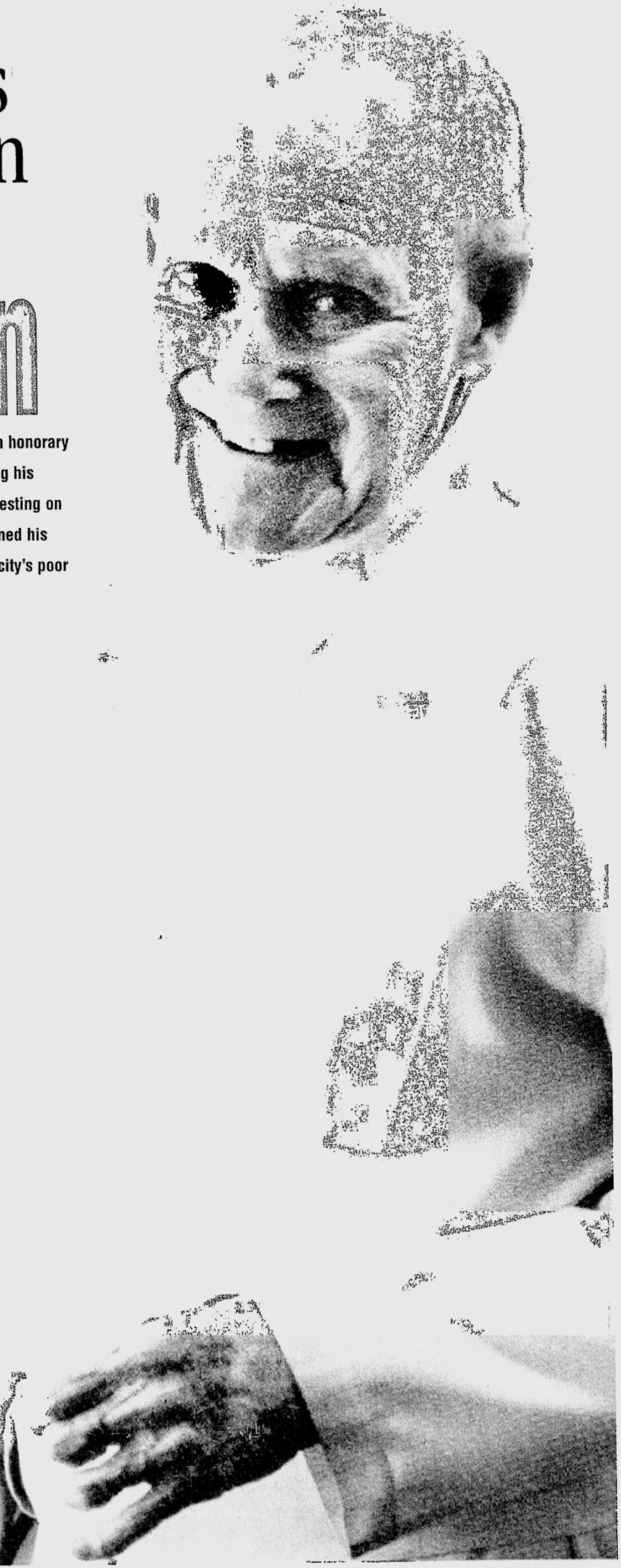
sundayINQUIRERmagazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

Fr. James Reuter, SJ

At 88, God's Own PR Man Still Has A Mission

The young priest from New Jersey who became an honorary Filipino and God's man in Manila has been serving his adopted countrymen for 66 years. But instead of resting on his laurels, this acclaimed media pioneer has turned his still considerable energies to reaching out to the city's poor



by Cora Llamas
photographs by Romy Homillada

"I'M *OCHO-OCHO,*" chuckles the man who arrived in the Philippines as a 22-year-old preparing for the priesthood. At 88, Fr. James Reuter, S.J. is apparently still in touch with all things current and pop, and as Pinoy in his sense of humor as the Honorary Filipino citizenship given him in 1996.

"I will die here," acknowledges this New Jersey native who, except for a few years' stay in the US where he was ordained in 1946, has made this country his base. "I like the Philippines very much," he says simply, in what must be a supreme understatement.

The feeling is mutual. Last February 15, Fr. Reuter was cited by the Senate for his "extraordinary and unparalleled life of service to the Filipino people." Senate Resolution No. 17 is just the latest in the heap of accolades that the priest has received over the years, which includes a Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts and the Papal award Pro Ecclesia at Pontifice.

Fr. Reuter does not hide the obvious paternal affection he feels for Filipinos. "They are the most lovable in the world. I like the people, they are very deeply Catholic and are very appreciative of everything." Which explains why the young missionary came back to the Philippines in 1948, even when many of his fellow American priests, similarly interred with him as Japan's prisoners of war during World War II, chose to return to the US.

Despite the years, the mind of this spiritual shepherd who has survived incarceration, hunger, racist outbursts of nationalism during the late '60s, and two Edsa Revolutions remains agile and witty. With the gift of a born storyteller, he can retell in vivid animation stories as if they just happened yesterday, with names, numbers, faces, and figures still sharp and accurate. To listen to Fr. Reuter for a couple of hours is like seeing snatches of modern Philippine history scrolling down on the film screen. But these are not the black-and-white narrations of a dispassionate chronicler, but the baring of a heart that has invested all of itself in its adopted country.

A few wounds are visible when he talks of the war. Fr. Reuter, along with the Dutch,

To page 2

The General in His Labyrinth, *p.4* • Fighting for Sulu—Through Dance and the Visual Arts, *p.6* • LoveNotes, *p.7*

Fr. James

...from page 1

Canadians, Britons, and a few Italians, was moved from one prison camp to another, from what was then the Ateneo de Padre Faura to Los Baños. An American friend—"one of the finest teachers in the Ateneo"—contracted an extreme case of ulcers and threw up blood before dying, recalls Fr. Reuter. "We buried him in Fort Santiago." A husband breaking out of prison to bring food to his family was captured and executed by the Japanese. "He was shot through the shoulders. They dragged him out and put a pistol to his head. The bundle of rice was soaked in blood when they gave it to his wife." Then there was the horror in learning that other expatriates had already been killed. "My God," he still shakes his head in disbelief. "They executed everyone in La Salle, they raped and bayoneted the women—and these were Germans who were their allies and the Irish who were not at war with the Japanese."

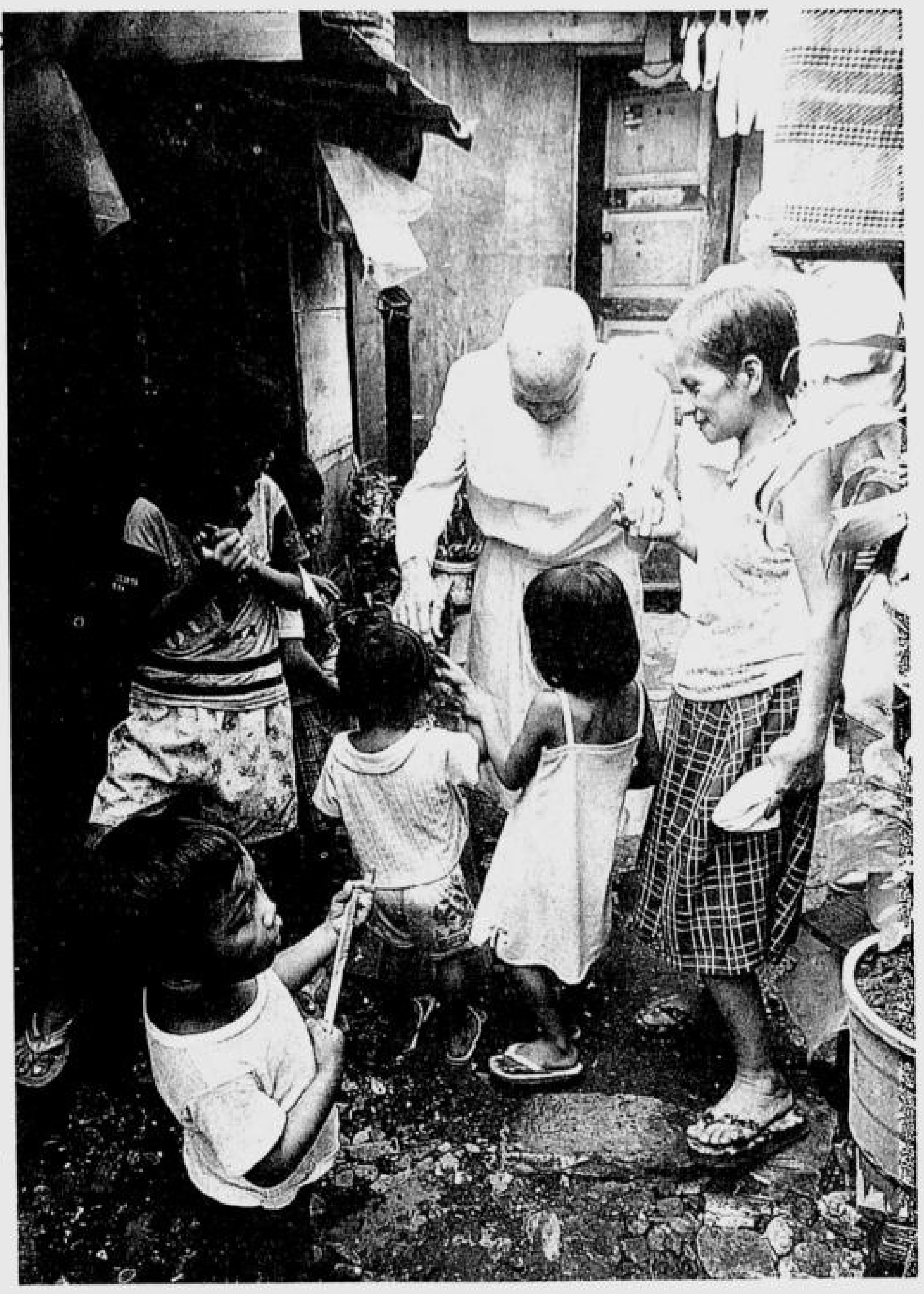
A few scars were dealt unintentionally by people closer to home. During the burgeoning nationalist movement in the 1960s up to the declaration of martial law in 1972, Fr. Reuter and his American colleagues were made to feel like strangers in a land they had grown to love like their own. By then, Fr. Reuter was teaching in the Ateneo. "The student demonstrators then were saying that Americans should go home, that every department head should be a Filipino. They made their point so strongly that many expatriates left the Philippines and the Society of Jesus. It was terrible."

Calling and mission

Still, though many of his colleagues had departed, Fr. Reuter stood fast. By the time the initial sparks of what would become the First Quarter Storm were lighting up, his calling and mission were already firmly rooted in the Philippines.

After four years teaching English, directing drama, and coaching the basketball club in the Ateneo de Naga from 1948 to 1952, he was transferred to the Manila main college. He juggled Latin and English classes on one hand and handled athletics, the debate team, and the glee club on the other. By the 1950s, he had embarked into the three major art forms that would earn him prominence: the theater, television, and radio.

He enthusiastically rattles off the names of some of his students who eventually carved their own niche as serious dramatic actors: the late Vic Silayan ("Cyrano de Bergerac" and Captain Von Trapp in "Sound of Music"); Vic Diaz, "very good" in "Francis of Navarre" and "The Miracle Worker"; June Keithley-Castro; Subas Herrero, Noel Trinidad, Robert Arevalo, Lotis Key, PETA founder Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, and Repertory Philippines' pillars Zeneida Amador and Baby Barredo. Fr. Reuter celebrated the requiem Mass for Amador when she passed away late last year.



Reality check: Fr. Reuter confronts poverty in the slums of Paco

Reuter would soon find a greater audience. Students, professors, and other theater-loving audiences flocked to his productions. "I think it's the most effective means of communication," he says of the dramatic form. "It's also a powerful way of presenting religion. It communicates the message more strongly and develops the students. It transfers to everything else in their lives."

His writing and production of radio programs from 1952 to 1960 continued another calling temporarily halted "by the Japanese invasion." In 1941, Reuter, along with a very young priest named Horacio dela Costa, anchored the controversial two-hour weeknight show "The Common Weal Hour." The broadcast bastion of the Church made its stand on the airwaves. "We fought the divorce bill on the radio," Reuter says, with the glimmer of old fire in his eyes. "It got very passionate and soon all the papers were carrying it. Eventually, they took the bill out because there was no passionate support."

TV's midwife

During the '50s, Fr. Reuter became one of the midwives in the birth of Philippine television. He and his group of actors put up one-act plays every week, all done live. Fifteen years later, he would be putting up 11 shows a week on all existing TV Channels. The religious drama "Sta. Zita and Mary Rose" ran for 11 years. Milestones in Christ's life were reenacted in the "Family Rosary Crusade." Classes and catechisms were taught on TV. The priest-cum-pioneering broadcaster had his own talk show, "Fr. Reuter Presents."

"They were much too difficult and we didn't have time to prepare them properly," he admits, then adds with a bit of amusement, "We never paid for time. The networks were happy to have anything worthwhile until color came in and they could sell the air time."

In 1964, Fr. Reuter was appointed director of the National Office of Mass Media, a position he holds up to the present. "It was only because I had more experience than anybody else," he says modestly. Part of his work is coordinating the radio, TV, and stage activities of the Catholic Church, making sure that what is presented "is right, good, and has human values, rather than what is derogatory to morals."

Sometimes, manning the airwaves can mean getting the news out to guide the troops. The war veteran in Reuter resurfaced for a brief time during the first EDSA Revolution. When Marcos' soldiers smashed the transmission of Radio Veritas, he received a call for aid from Jaime Cardinal Sin, asking for a replacement. DZRJ, controlled by the opposition forces, moved its frequency from 810 to 840, and Radio Bandido was born with June Keithley-Castro as the eyes and ears of a nation. "I sent her there," Fr. Reuter says, then reveals another tactic. "The military could not track her down because the station was right on top of Malacañang in Sta. Mesa's Stop and Shop. They could not triangulate them because it was right below them. They thought we had another transmitter so they shelled the old station again."

These days, aside from his media work, Fr. Reuter is directly ministering to the needy and the sick through charity work. Ask him the one thing that affected him the most, and he has a surprising answer: "Poverty. It has changed my life."

Appropriately enough, it started with a theater production. One of the characters was a 7-year-old boy born under a bridge. A request for actual 7-year-old boys who could fit the part brought him face to face with 24 barefoot children who could neither read nor write. All of them lived under Paco Bridge, which he visited. Hoping to add a touch of realism to his stage magic, Fr. Reuter was confronted with the full brunt of it.

With a hope and a prayer

The writer encouraging others to reach out to the poor realized that he never really knew what poverty was, until that point. "My concept then of a family living under a bridge was romantic," he confesses. "A bridge with water flowing like glass on a side, and the bridge touches the land where someone builds a *nipa* shack." But underneath Paco Bridge, it was "absolutely pitch black, no light, no water, and 500 people lived there. A 19-year-old pregnant girl bathing at the end of the tunnel with a tin can and wearing a dress was trying so hard to be clean, but the water is coming from the *estero* (creek). After going through two doors of the makeshift huts, you didn't want to look any more, but you were in the middle of their lives."

In a sense, Fr. Reuter never got out, because he has been involved with the poor ever since. First, he started with feeding centers, clinics, medical missions, and childbirth centers. "We just begged, that's all. With a hope and a prayer, we got a lot of help from various people like the Catholic Women's League. We went around hotels and they gave us food. Now we have nine feeding centers in Metro Manila."

Former pupils and friends who are now captains of industry assisted in the building of a four-story hospital on Coastal Road. One he approached, "backed by Ateneo boys," was a former frequently criticized student actor and at that time the country's highest elected official. "I used to slam Erap Estrada, but we were friends. He asked me how much I needed for the hospital maintenance. A million a month. He said he would give a million and a half. When I asked him when it would start, he said the very next day. He was wonderful; he gave us more than anybody else."

Two years before he reaches his 90th birthday, Fr. Reuter shows no signs of stopping. The evangelistic radio shows continue to preach the gospel. A new stage production just might be in the works. In the pipeline are the training of tribesmen as nurses and doctors who can treat their own. The hospital continues to need funding.

In Fr. Reuter's case, the elderly flesh submits to a much stronger spirit, nurtured by faith, tempered by fire, and energized by passion for a people he insists has given back to him as much as he has devoted his life to them. Q

Man with a mission: Fr. Reuter is a vocal advocate of praying the rosary

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EASTER EGG HUNT Mandarin Oriental, Manila gears up for the Big Egg Hunt today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the ballroom. Children will be treated to an exciting, theme-inspired event filled with delightful activities and three egg hunts to be held at intervals where winners can win overnight accommodations for two, exciting prizes and gifts. Special Easter lunch and dinner preparations offer families sumptuous options. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Two Poems

By Allan Popa

Cracking

My arms rested on the armrest.
A heavy axe lodged in my head.

The earth was firm, it could bear more.
I leapt with a sudden jerk that surprised me

and I walked. Trouble came with every step.
Perspective swayed hissing *fact fact fact*.

I walked on and on and did not change.
Refugees with nothing saved stood out of

my way. The world shifted to make ground
wherever I went. I ran without ambivalence.

Lake

No curses in the air: all the dead
have been buried. A boy pauses

and looks back at his muddied wake.
He doesn't know what he's been missing.

He plunges deep into the water to hear
himself better. The clouds haven't moved

for days. Now the vigilant villagers
look past the bare trees lining the lake

as though they can see beyond the clear-
cut alphabet of a forgotten language.

How to mend the scream on the face
of the water. How to make *that* sound.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

An Evening to Remember

Gracious hosts Mr. and Mrs. Andy Liboro recently welcomed close friends to their beautiful home in Makati for a delightful evening of good food, great company and topnotch entertainment. Being SMART Infinity subscribers, it was only natural that Brand Ambassador Johnny Litton aided Mr. and Mrs. Liboro in entertaining the high profile guests, many of whom are also happy SMART Infinity subscribers.

As they feasted on delicious Spanish fare catered by old favorite tapas restaurant, El Comedor, many of the guests exchanged pleasantries with one another, creating that perfect social gathering ambiance. Others discussed how pleased they are with the SMART Infinity service and how they feel truly pampered by all the perks and privileges, all geared to helping them enjoy life's best.

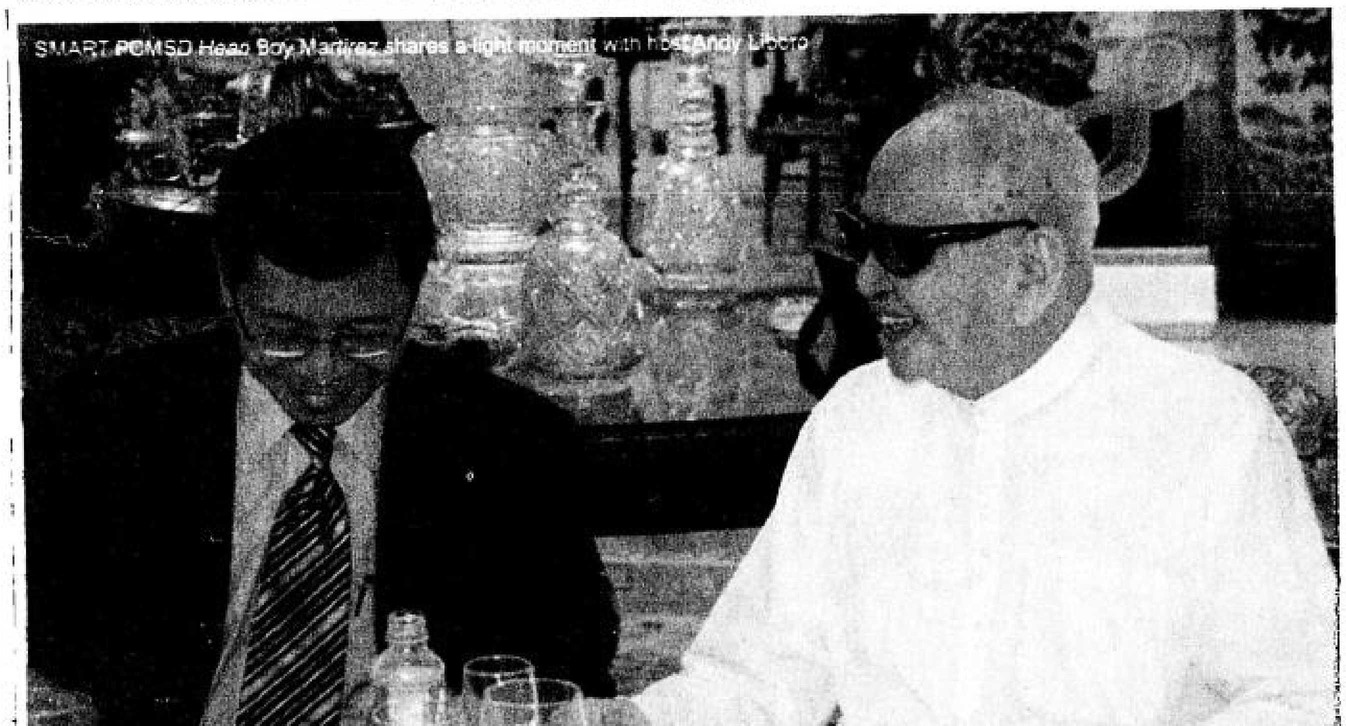
Up and coming jazz vocalist Mishka Adams provided the first round of entertainment and clearly impressed her distinguished audience, including the likes of Loren Legarda and Dante Silverio. The half-Filipina, half-British singer truly made her mark on the night with her soothing voice and is bound to make waves across the country very soon.

After dinner, the 80 guests were treated to a spectacular flamenco dance number performed by Dante Silverio and Tereret Liboro herself. The evening had all the hallmarks of what SMART Infinity stands for and delivers, because only SMART Infinity understands how you live life to the fullest and helps you enjoy the best it has to offer.

Jazz singer Mishka Adams serenaded the [illegible]

Maritess Pineda, Tereret Liboro and Sen. Loren Legarda

Andy Liboro, Mayen Carmona, Dante Silverio Tereret Tambunting-Liboro, Señor Jessie and Cecile de Joya



SMART PCMSD Head Boy Martinez shares a light moment with host Andy Liboro

Johnny Litton's trademark wit was on display once more

SMART's [illegible] Carceller with the evening's hostess, Tereret Liboro

Dante Silverio, Mayen Carmona, Tereret Liboro and Señor Jessie [illegible]

Controversies

by Cynthia D. Balana

He's under fire for a whole gamut of issues, from his silence on military corruption charges, to his proposed national ID system and his role in the Camp Bagong Diwa fiasco. Still, insists DILG Secretary Angelo Reyes, that's only his detractors talking, because he's simply being straightforward in doing his job. Will the Commission on Appointments agree?

The General In His Labyrinth

RAFFY LERMA

"THE buck stops here," Angelo Reyes declares in an imperious tone before ploughing into what remains of his meal. Those words were originally spoken by US President Harry Truman, but the Interior and Local Government Secretary has adopted them as his own.

The man behind the idea of a national ID system apparently considers himself a natural leader. "I'm driven," he says. "I don't have to be supervised." Leadership, adds the 60-year-old general, is all about decisiveness and "making the right decisions."

In Reyes' case, the decisions may neither be easy nor popular. Just recently, he gave the green light for policemen to storm Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan when Abu Sayyaf detainees refused to surrender after shooting down three jail guards in a botched escape attempt. The siege left 22 men dead and scores wounded.

Being firm and decisive has also given Reyes a bad rap among politicians, who equate his loud and stern voice with arrogance, and who find his habit of repeating their questions "annoying." But he only does that to make sure that he understands the legislators' question, says the DILG chief. "I must admit that I am quite forthright, impatient and demanding, and that I tend to come on too strongly, but I can't help being me. I say what I feel and what I mean. I just hope people understand that I intend no offense."

Perhaps not, but ironically, the General seems to take offense just as easily. When Congress questioned him about his joint bank account with his 95-year-old mother, the general snapped "Leave my mother out of this!" He also takes full responsibility for all his decisions, he claims. "I am getting paid for it. I don't sit in the Cabinet to consume oxygen."

Reyes says he is no pushover and that he seldom flip-flops. His actions are calculated. He is the kind of man who would not jump ship without first seeing land.

There is one way to punish him, though, the general claims, and that is to push him to boredom. Reyes does not see himself retiring from work unless he is physically and mentally incapable of going on. "That's the bad news. I hope to be around for some time," he says with a grin.

To this man, laughter and jokes are always liberating, although he breathes fire most of the time. He does not hesitate to wage war against anyone who would question his integrity, or drag his "Mamang" or any member of his family into a public scandal. Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos received a tongue-lashing from Reyes when the former attempted to pry into Reyes's joint bank account with his mother.

Political scrutiny

"My mother just turned 95 the other Sunday," the DILG chief says. "She cannot be expected to react to what happened. Since she is not involved in my appointment to the DILG, the Commission on Appointments should leave her alone. Will you be pleased when your mother is needlessly dragged into the spotlight of political scrutiny?"

"Angie" to family and friends, Reyes spent most of his childhood in San Miguel, Manila. He graduated valedictorian at the Cubao High School in 1960, and was among the Top 10 graduates of Philippine Military Academy Class '66. He has two masteral degrees, one in business administration from the Asian Institute of Management in 1973, and another in public administration from Harvard University in 1991.

The younger of two sons born to Pablo Reyes and Purificacion Tomas, both public school teachers, Reyes insists that he is one lucky guy blessed with balanced genetic traits. His late father, a widower with 10 children before he married Reyes' mother, who was 13 years his junior, was principal of Pampanga High School before he retired as a division school superintendent of Quezon City. His mother is a retired secondary school supervisor of English in Manila. Reyes' *Kuya* Lito, who settled in the US, retired as a state employee in Portland, Oregon.

"I was lucky to have a father who was stern, firm, very much respected and looked up to by the people under him. On the other side, I have a mother who is all compassion, patience and tolerance. Those were the traits firmly etched in my persona," he says.

When not in his office, Reyes spends time doting on his two granddaughters, Andrea, 2, and Thea, three months. Another one is coming, he says. His wife Teresita Pernia, a former Miss Philippines-Lion, is an entrepreneur. They met during the course of a southern cruise of the cadet corps in 1965. They have five sons-Pablo, Angelito, Marc, Carlo and Judd.

Regimented life

Reyes had always dreamt of being a soldier because he was attracted to a regimented life. In the PMA, he learned the values of determination, patience, and how to be a follower as well as a leader. Had he not been a soldier, he would have pursued a career in law and used it to enter politics. He has always wanted the public to be his boss, rather than some corporate shareholders or owners, Reyes says. "When you are in a private corporation, you simply work for the bottom line which is profit. I find it very easy working in the government. It's the people you work with who make it difficult."

Working with President Macapagal-Arroyo is "not difficult, but it's also not easy," he says, because one has to be always on the ball. Reyes thinks he and GMA have excellent working chemistry, which is important. He rejects the notion that the President is beholden to him in any way because of his crucial support during Edsa 2 in 2001 which ousted President Estrada and pushed GMA into power. But why has the President refused to let go of him despite the fact that his confirmation is facing rough sailing at the Commission on Appointments?

"One, I don't give her problems. Two, I solve problems for her," Reyes says matter-of-factly. "My philosophy is, if I can't serve my boss anymore, then I should leave. It's as simple as that. But while I'm serving a boss, I do my best. Trust is placed on you. You have to work at it constantly, on a day-to-day basis.

"As a leader, you should be working with a high level of enthusiasm and initiative. No need to be told what to do. You decide that this is good, this is what the President wants, then you do it."

Pulse Asia's Felipe Miranda says Reyes is one "bad news guy" because Reyes only comes out whenever there is a problem affecting his organization. He recalls Miranda's words to him: "You know what's your problem, why you have negative media? You only come out when there's a problem.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Family ties: (Left) Reyes. standing rightmost, with older brother Lito and parents Pablo and Purificacion Reyes; (above) Mamang Reyes and Reyes' wife Tessie

You come out defending it. But if there's good news, you give it to other people."

Reyes makes sure his role in Edsa 2 does not overwhelm him although he admits that it was something that he wished he did not have to do but he had to.

His silence on the alleged corruption in the military organization, particularly on the corruption charges against Lt. Gen. Carlos Garcia, puzzles many. Reyes points out that it would not be proper for him to comment on Garcia's case because it belongs to another department, that of National Defense. But he stresses that Garcia served as comptroller under five AFP chiefs of staff, and that he was already retired when Garcia's appointment to this sensitive position was made.

"I have already clarified that many times during congressional hearings," he says. "They thought I was responsible for Garcia's appointment, but I was not. Despite that, they would still hit me," he adds. "These are my detractors, so what can you expect from them?

"My having been conveniently evasive or silent during the proceedings of the congressional investigation is a matter of opinion and perspective. Being a man of few words, I am not in the habit of protracted talk. In my opinion, questions ought to be answered as simply and as briefly as possible.

"I am resigned to the fact that my detractors will never say anything nice about me, and that whatever I did during the hearings will always be used against me by my critics. While I am unable to do anything about this sad situation, I can at least take refuge in the fact that as far as I'm concerned, I have not done anything wrong to anyone."

Tip of the iceberg

As far as Reyes is concerned, talks about Garcia's alleged corruption as being just the tip of the iceberg are speculative at this point, in the absence of prima facie evidence linking higher-ups in the military organization. "This does not mean I am absolving anybody in the military, or that I am tolerating corruption in the service. What I am saying is that we must first find out the extent of the anomalies, learn how and why it happened, and prosecute those responsible."

On the reported 50 foreign trips of his wife from 1993 to 2004, Reyes stresses that 36 of these were official, part of the travel privileges in the military.

Like any other former soldier, Reyes' military background affects most of his decisions at work. He admits that he is also concerned about his personal safety and moves around with enough bodyguards. But he does not see any need to check on the loyalty of his people. "A loyalty check might even be counter-productive, because the moment you conduct a loyalty check, it means you don't trust them. When soldiers feel they are not trusted, that's the time they become disloyal and restive. If your people are not loyal to you, you should conduct a self-examination."

According to Reyes, it is easy to get the loyalty of Filipino soldiers, provided you know how to lead them. "They can endure hardships and low pay but they can't endure bad leadership."

To page 7

Say Goodbye
to
Diaper Rash

As most experienced mothers will tell you, diaper rash is one of the most common problems their newborns will encounter in the early years of childhood. Usually manifested through the reddening and inflammation of the skin in the butt area, diaper rash is, nonetheless, very preventable as long as mothers take the necessary steps:

1. Check baby's diaper throughout the day to make sure they're dry. Change them immediately at the first sign of wetness. This will prevent bacteria from baby's stool and urine from irritating his bottom.
2. Whenever you change baby's diaper, always make it a point to cleanse his/her bottom thoroughly before putting on a fresh pair.
3. Whenever possible, allow baby to go without diapers to let the air naturally dry his/her skin.

4. Finally, always use

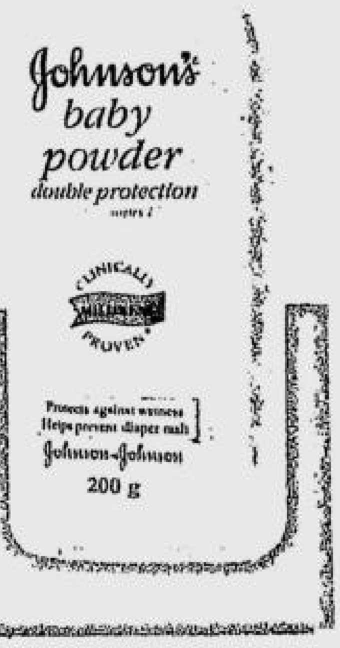
Johnson's®
baby
powder
double protection

during every diaper change. Its unique zinc oxide formula works in two ways to help prevent diaper rash: (A) It repels wetness and, (B) It inhibits the growth of bacteria that can irritate baby's bottom. It's also Clinically Proven Mild so it's safe to use even on the most sensitive newborn skin.

Make it a point to follow these simple tips in caring for baby, and diaper rash- with all the pain and discomfort it brings- will surely be a thing of the past!

Cheek to Cheek

. Baby and you will love being this close, specially when his little bottom is rash-free.
So have Johnson's Baby Powder Double Protection handy. It has zinc oxide that protects him from wetness and rash. And keeps his little bottom comfortably dry, ready for snuggling this close.



Artwatch

by *Joy Rojas*
photographs by Roger Carpio

Fighting for Sulu —Through Dance and the Visual Arts

It's a long way from Marikina to Sulu, but Ligaya Fernando Amilbangsa's tireless efforts to celebrate her adopted culture have spawned a new breed of advocates and moved Muslims to tears

WHEN asked if there's anything she cannot do, Ligaya Fernando Amilbangsa, ambidextrous writer and painter, consummate researcher, passionate dancer and choreographer, and enthusiastic cook, green thumb, crafts and costume maker, and hairstylist to friends, frowns.

"Eat," decides the fair-skinned and fragile-looking 62-year-old, whose long limbs and elongated features remind one of a painting by the expressionist Modigliani. "I like to cook but I'm not fond of eating."

"Sit still" seemed a more appropriate answer. Amilbangsa, who will hook a string of pearls on her niece's neck, answer the phone, yell out information about herself while dressing for her photo shoot, serve you water, and beckon you to please have some ice cream before she finally, finally settles down for her interview, begins each morning not with the customary stretch, but with a sudden bolt out of bed. "And when I do chores around the house, I don't walk, I run!" she exclaims. "I'm so energetic, I like to move!"

And move she did, channeling her inexhaustible energy into "*Ukkil*: Visual Arts of the Sulu Archipelago." Published by the Ateneo de Manila University Press, *ukkil* (the generic term for "art" in the Sulu province) took over 20 years to make, partly "because I did not receive funding from anyone," reports its author, and partly from the great detail that went into the project. Covering all bases of an art which she describes with a swoon as "seamless, with a high degree of refinement," she researched *ukkil*'s information without assistance and documented its chapters on fabrics, metalwork, basketry and the like, first in longhand and then on a manual Remington typewriter. She provided for its visuals as well, capturing images on camera and through illustrations and the faithful tracing of patterns.

A race against time

Her tireless and highly meticulous work style has prompted people to call her "difficult," a label which Amilbangsa shrugs off. "Only lazy people find me difficult," she counters. "I'm just driven. We are in a race against time. So many people are no longer into these visual forms of artistic expression, they prefer to focus on more 'productive' pursuits. These traditional art forms need to be revitalized, we need to find a market for them, maybe apply them to different types of products for outside consumption. Like, if no one made traditional musical instruments anymore, there will be no musicians, and without musicians there will be no dancers and costumes. *Patayin mo ang isa, sunud-sunod mamamatay ang iba* (You kill one, the others will soon die as well)."

Though due for summer release, *"Ukkil"* has already received favorable reviews. The Ateneo Press, says its author, hails it as "highly superior, a breath of fresh air as far as coffee table books are concerned." Of course, one wouldn't expect anything less from Amilbangsa, whose first book, *"Pangalay,"* was recognized with a Best Art Book award by the Manila Critics Circle in 1983. Also published by the Ateneo Press and put together with the same passion and painstaking detail as *"Ukkil," "Pangalay"* is the definitive text and picture book on the Sulu dance form, boasting the richest movement vocabularly among all other dances in the Philippines. Regarded as our living link to other Asian classical dance styles, and said to be at par with ballet and jazz, the *Pangalay* leaves audiences enthralled with its spontaneous, anti-linear and intricate techniques.

Amilbangsa herself fell in love at first sight with the *Pangalay* in 1969, when she caught a performance at a wedding she attended in Sulu. "I wanted to learn it right there and then," she says. "My inlaws laughed, but to me it was like, eureka, a revelation! *Walang katulad.*"

Watching one performance after another was how this self-described "slow learner" earned her Pangalay chops. Deemed fit to teach in 1974, she conducted classes with the two dance troupes she founded, the Tambuli Cultural Troupe, and later, the Integrated Performing Arts Guild.

Her latest group, the six-year-old Alun-Alun Dance Circle, she credits to Nannette Matilac, a long-time friend and follower who insisted Amilbangsa teach classes again. At the time, Amilbangsa and the *Pangalay* were on a plateau. Invitations to conduct lessons both here and abroad were only for the short term, "and it takes at least three years to become a good dancer." Amilbangsa even went to the extent of offering to teach the Pangalay at the CCP and Met for free, but when neither replied, she became frustrated.

Sunday classes

To appease Matilac, the teacher agreed to revive classes only if at least 10 students showed up. Needless to say, she got what she asked for. Today, Amilbangsa holds classes every Sunday afternoon at a cozy studio she built, a well-tended garden away from her provincial-style home in Antipolo. As a teacher, she is neither conventional nor a terror ("I just look like a terror," she jokes). This explains why she attracts anyone from a three-year-old to a 78-year-old lady into her fold, and why two of her students have been accepted as scholars at the prestigious National High School for the Arts in Makiling. Those who want to learn the Pangalay as a form of exercise are welcome as well. "Okay *lang*," says its teacher, "because they will come to love it eventually. Before you can truly appreciate it, you have to feel it first with your body. But I see the logic in it," she says when asked if the centuries-old dance remains relevant to these modern times. "We really need the Pangalay today for cultural therapy. We are very sick, too lazy to study. With the Pangalay, and the kind of breathing and movement it involves, we can become disciplined."

The ironic and admirable thing about this staunch Sulu province advocate is that she actually isn't from Sulu. The eldest of former Marikina mayor Gil Fernando's four children and older sister of Metro Manila Development Authority chairman Bayani Fernando, Amilbangsa was a sickly child whose first serious dream was to become a runner. When her poor health kept her indoors, she turned to the arts, a pastime everyone in the family enjoyed (her mother painted and played the piano, her father loved to garden and her brother BF sings). To build her muscles and bones she took up ballet; for strong lungs, she learned voice. She also played the piano, practicing diligently by herself for up to four hours.

Come college, she majored in English at the Far Eastern University. Her father wanted her to become a lawyer, but her heart belonged to the arts. It was because of art, in fact, that she would meet her future husband, Datu Punjungan Amilbangsa. Then watching over a painting exhibit for the school's foundation day, she and a friend decided to explore the other exhibition areas. A Muslim wedding booth caught her attention with its dreamy drapery, exotic accessories, and Punjungan, dressed as a dapper Moro groom. Smitten, she asked for his autograph and rushed home to tell her family about it. "That's not good," frowned her parents.

One good Moro

Though Punjungan was not in the booth when she returned with her sister for a second visit, the two would meet again. Punjungan, who took a shine to Ligaya as well, once accompanied a mutual friend to her house in Marikina. Ligaya wasn't there at the time, but he would have the opportunity to tell her about it when he formally came to court. The two would eventually marry despite reservations from her mother and relatives from her father's side. "They tried to talk me out of it. They said, 'Only a dead Moro is a good Moro,'" she recalls. "I thought it was pretty exotic." Ten years her senior, Punjungan was a quiet man with a happy disposition who shared Ligaya's love for history and the arts. "And he's a Gemini, which means we're compatible," laughs the Libran Ligaya. "So on the strength of his astrological sign, he had an edge over others."

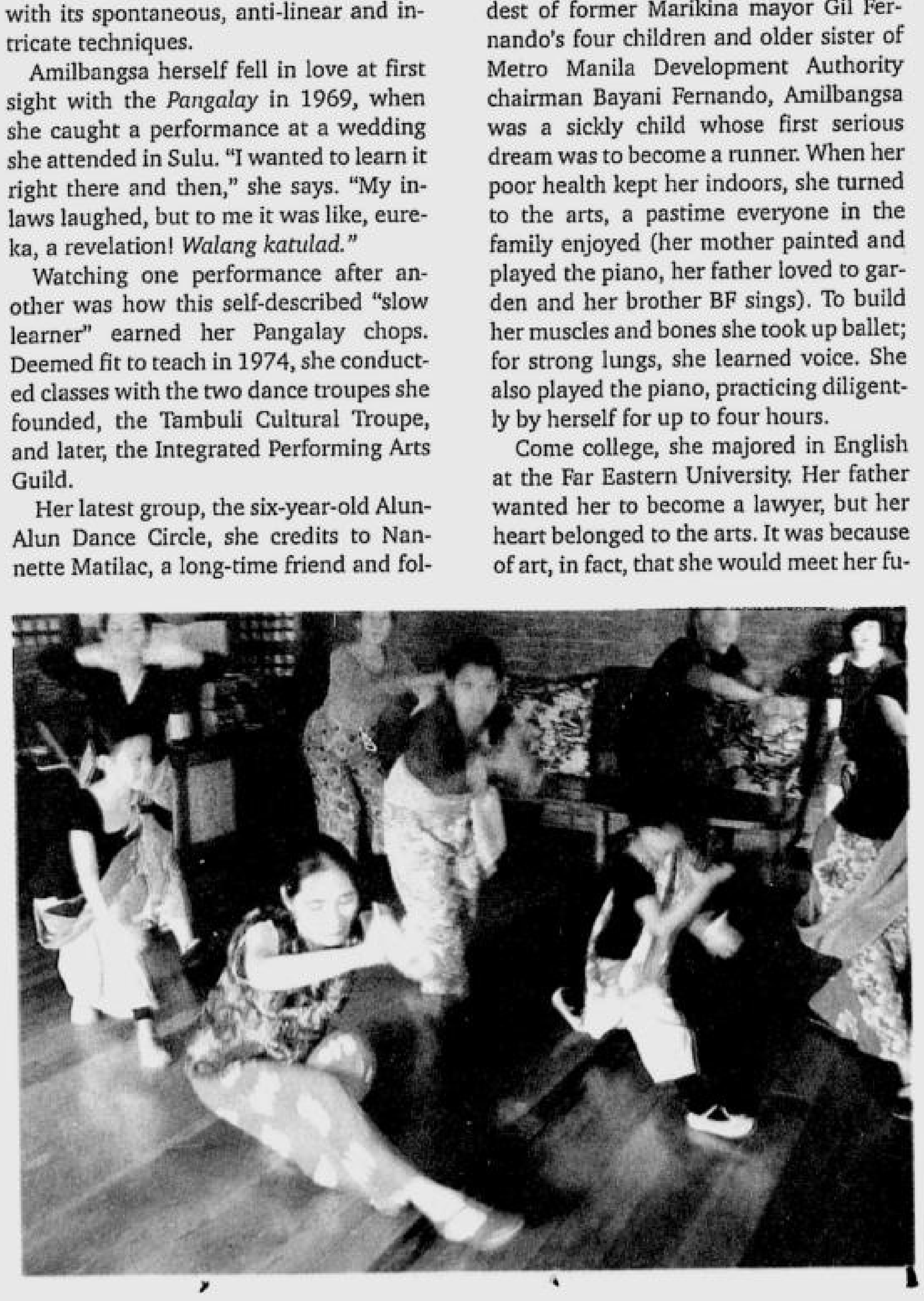
A special dispensation allowed them to wed first in Catholic rites at the Ermita Church, and then in a Muslim ceremony. Surprisingly, adjustments between the Christian bride and her Moro husband were few, but memorable, nonetheless. "On our honeymoon, I caught him using my comb. 'Don't ever do that again!' I told him. My mother raised us never to use someone else's shoes, toothbrush or comb. They're personal belongings and they shouldn't be shared with anyone," she says.

Otherwise, it was a good marriage that lasted 23 years. Amilbangsa, who moved to Sulu, is the mother of a grown daughter and son and a grandmother of two. Her husband passed away in 1987.

Today, Amilbangsa lives alone, a situation that suits her fine. "I like being by myself. So many things are running inside my head." If her mind isn't busy, then she is. Painting—whether watercolor, pastel, oil, with brushes or with her hands—is one of her favorite things to do at the moment. When she's tired—if she knows what the word means at all—she will play the piano or be with her plants.

No, Amilbangsa doesn't dance the Pangalay everyday, but on occasions when she does, she is pure magic, a sight to behold. Assuming an almost trance-like state, she will lose herself in the movements of the dance, twisting her hands and wrists in expressive and impossible angles, "floating" from side to side with the nimble shuffling of her feet, and exhibiting incredible grace and balance by extending one leg forward, and squatting with the other before springing right back up. Muslims are reportedly moved to tears when they see her perform.

"What is important isn't the meaning behind the movements but the beauty of the postures and gestures," she says. "It's so spiritual, it's like a prayer." Q



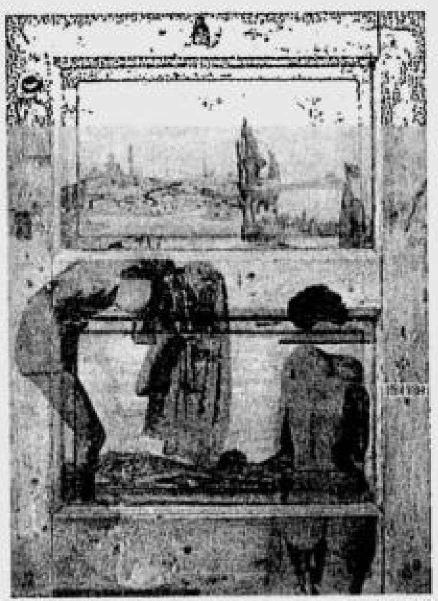
"Like a prayer": Amilbangsa with her students dancing the *Pangalay*, which she describes as "spiritual"

This Week

Art

Cellars, a group exhibit of mixed media works by Santiago Bose, Dulcie Dee, Fernando Modesto, Margherita Del Balzo, Mariano, Ching, Maya Muñoz, Jóse Legaspi, Nunelucio Alvarado and Alwin Reamillo at Hiraya Gallery, 530 UN Avenue, Manila until April 5. For details, call 523-3331.

Abstract painter Michel Herbert holds his third solo show of large-scale, unframed works titled **Ouvertures** at the UP Vargas Museum, Roxas Avenue, UP Diliman until May 8. Herbert will have a live painting performance on April 9 at 3 p.m. It is open to the public. For details, call 928-1927.



"August Deities" by Santi Bose, on view at Hiraya Gallery

Re/Collecting The 80s, a group show by Ronald Achacoso, Pardo De Leon, Francesca Enriquez, Juni Salvador, Popo San Pascual, Gerardo Tan and Roma Valles at the Mag:net Gallery ABS until April 12. For details, call 410-0995.

Santong Pinagpasasaan, an exhibit of an installation work and performance by Mideo Cruz amidst the writings by Roberto Ofanda at the Black Gallery of Kulay Diwa Art Galleries, 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat Parañaque from April 1 to 28. For details, call 826-0574.

The Figure in Art, a collection of interpretations of human form by Ang Kiukok, Bencab, Orlando Castillo, H.R. Ocampo and Manuel Rodriguez together with bronze and brass sculptures by Ross Arcilla and Solomon Saprid at The Museum's Hallway Gallery of DLSU-Manila until May 6.

Onstage

April Fools-Stand-up Comics on the Loose! features US style, witty, observational stand-up comedy in the English language, tackling everyday situations and opinions that we can relate to and laugh about. Immerse yourself in Tim Tayag's world, and be in a state of euphoria from this slick, riotous performer. Together with Al Manalo, a stand-up comic from San Francisco and Mike Unson, who has opened for top comedian Rex Navarrete. To be held on April 8, 7 p.m. at San Mig El Pueblo, Ortigas. Tickets at P250 available at the gates. For inquires, call/text 0917-8398233 or San Mig Ortigas at 637-5499.

Atbp

Perry Sevidal Ballet holds an **intensive summer dance training program** starting March 29 culminating in The PSBallet Recital XI at the CCP Main Theater on June 4. Courses offered are Classical Ballet Advanced, Children's Ballet, Pointé Class/Acting for Dancers, Jazz, Modern, Musical Theater, Pilates, and Ladies' Ballet for working mothers and career women. Registration ongoing at at its studio at San Antonio Village, Makati City. Free trial class offered for all levels. For inquiries, call 895-7812, 895-3162 and 0917-5255370 after office hours.

Gantimpala Theater Foundation invites kids, teens and young adults to join the **GTF-NPDC Summer Musical Theater and Stage Management Workshops** from April 4 to May 14 at the Rehearsal Hall of the Concert at the Park Auditorium, Luneta, Manila. Registration in ongoing. Courses include Children's Musical Theater, Teen and Young Adults Musical Theater and Stage Management Workshop for theater production practitioners. For inquiries, call 536-5860 or 528-0603.

Corban Daycare and Learning Center will hold the following **summer courses**: Remedial Reading and Math for preschool up to Grade 4 (March 28-June 3); Easy English for Teens and Kids (March 29 to April 29); English and Business Writing for Adults (every Saturday, 2-5 p.m.); Easy English for Adults (every Sunday, 2-5 p.m.). For inquiries, call 842-6665 and 809-3050 or visit Corban at G/F, MB Aguirre Building, President's Avenue, cor. Elizalde Street, Sucat, Parañaque.

The **Alcove Photo Gallery** opens its series of **lighting workshops** with Primer on Photographic Lighting by Jay Alonzo on April 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City. The seminar will cover the basics of lighting, with added emphasis on using artificial light sources. Workshop fee is P1,200 inclusive of handouts, equipment use and certificate. For details, call 892-1801.

Perry Sevidal offers ballet for all levels

Sining Sambaydiwa is conducting its **Annual Summer Drama Workshops** for kids and adults. Courses offered are Children's Theater, Teen Theater, Young & Senior Adults/Professionals Theater and Acting for Stage Screen and Advertising to be held at the Ninoy Aquino Parks & Wildlife Nature Center, Quezon Avenue Ext., Diliman, QC every Saturday and Sunday from April 2 to May 29. Registration and orientation are scheduled on April 2, 3, 9 and 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. For details, call 376-2267 and 372-7546.

Tanghalang Parisukat offers **Summer Intensive Theater Arts Workshop** on April 4-5; April 18-29; May 2-3 and May 16-27 at the 2/F SCC Building, Communication Foundation for Asia Compound, 3892 R. Magsaysay Blvd., corner Santol Road, Sta. Mesa, Manila. Courses offered are Acting Workshop, Stage & Production Management, Creative Dramatics, Creative Sound & Music, Creative Body Movement, Group Dynamics, Basics of Directing & Writing. Practicum culminates in a performance on May 27 at the SCC Auditorium. It will also hold a Radio Voice Acting & Dubbing Workshop on April 19 and 22. For details, call 713-2983 loc. 113 or 716-2510.

Pagcor and the Dept. of Tourism recently launched **Gems of the Philippines** at the Airport Casino Filipino. Guests will witness a grand celebration as members of the Karangalan Philippine Dance Company interpret ethnic and Hispanic customs of the different regions though folk music and dance. Regular show starts April 7. For details, call 816-1583 and 812-2610.

Join the **Art Strokes Summer Art Workshop** from March 28 to June 3 featuring basic and advanced lessons in Drawing and Sketching, Pastel Drawing, Watercolor Paintings, Oil Painting to be held in various schools in Metro Manila during weekdays and weekend schedules. Creative Writing lessons on TV scriptwriting, Essay, Children's Story and Romance Novel and Journalistic Writing are also offered. Art therapy sessions may be conducted upon request. For details, call Eleanor at 740-7221 or 0919-7649321.

A three-day **voice camp Divo at Diva** for teeners under Snack Arts is scheduled from April 1-3, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mowelfund, QC. Conducting the workshop is former Madrigal singer Fairy Lui-Lee with guest lecturers Bodjie Pascua on musical theater; Ivy Violan on pop singing and joining competitions, and Richard Signey on the spoken word vs the sung word. Registration fee is P2,500 inclusive of lunch. For inquiries, call 721-0801, 726-7164 and 724-1762.

Graduates of **Kamuning Elementary School** will hold their third **Grand Alumni Homecoming** on April 8 at the KES campus, Scout Torillo, Q.C. Local and overseas alumni are expected to attend the affair to be hosted by Batch '65 and highlighted by the awarding of distinguished alumni, entertainment numbers and fellowship. For details, contact Councilor Bayani V. Hipol at 922-3740 and 0916-5301380; or Nonoy Zuñiga at 0917-5300082.

Writing workshops from Writers for a Better World: Creative Writing for Uncreative People (April 3); Writing the First Person Encounter (April 10) to be held at ISIS Manila, 3 Marunong St., Quezon City. For inquiries, call 417-1521.

The Lopez Memorial Museum is offering a five-day **Arts and Crafts morning workshops** (10 a.m. to 12 noon) for 7-12 years old children. Carla Pacis will kick off the workshop series by facilitating Creative Writing on April 4-8. Succeeding workshops are Basic Drawing (April 12-16) with renowned visual artist Freddie Aquilizan; Creative Paper Cut-outs and Sculpture (April 18-22) with Alma Quinto; Mask Making Workshop (April 25-29) with Amy Aragon, and Clay Sculpture (May 2 - 6) with visual artist Aba Dalena. For details, call Fanny at 631-2417.

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

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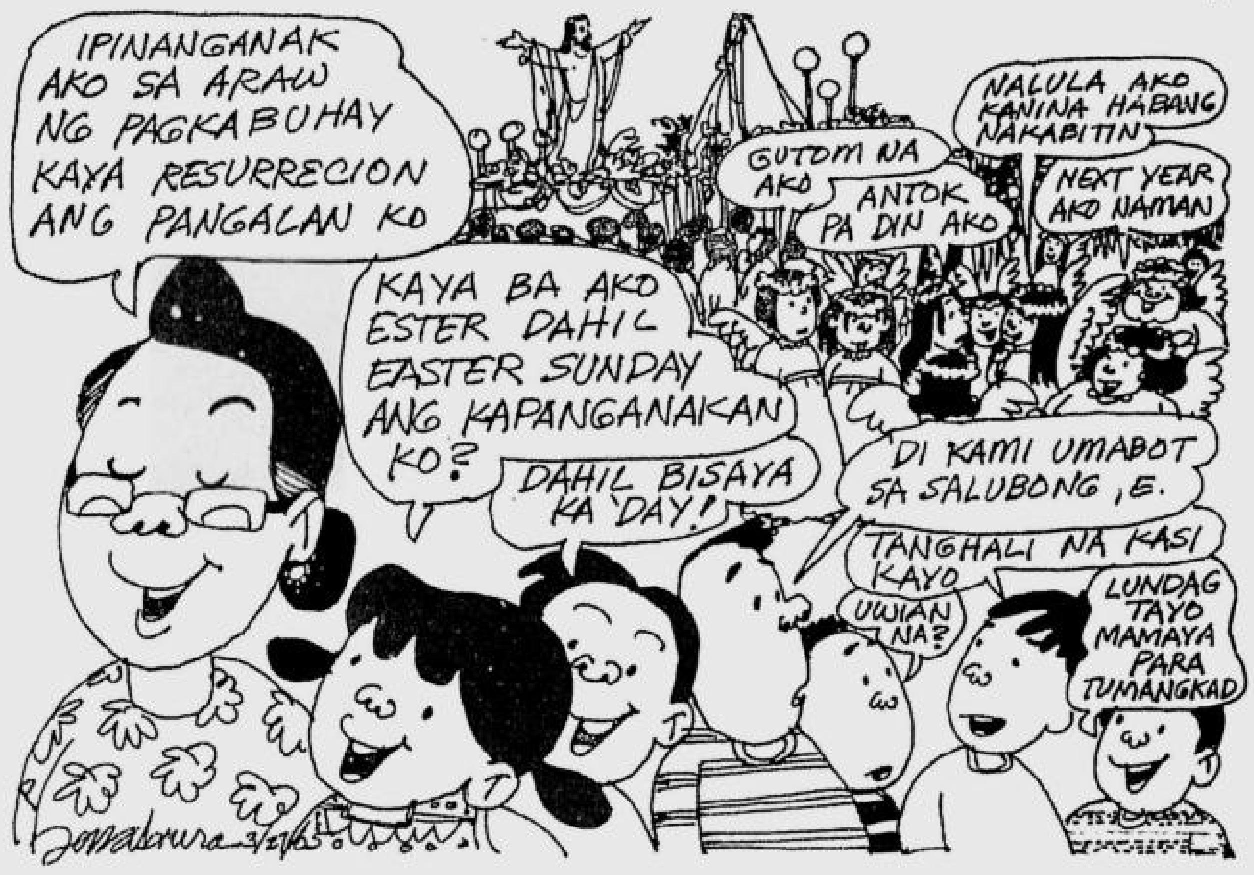
Pinoy Nga!

Easter Sunday



IPINANGANAK AKO SA ARAW NG PAGKABUHAY KAYA RESURRECION ANG PANGALAN KO
KAYA BA AKO ESTER DAHIL EASTER SUNDAY ANG KAPANGANAKAN KO?
DAHIL BISAYA KA 'DAY!
GUTOM NA AKO
ANTOK PA DIN AKO
NALULA AKO KANINA HABANG NAKABITIN
NEXT YEAR AKO NAMAN
DI KAMI UMABOT SA SALUBONG, E.
TANGHALI NA KASI KAYO
UWIAN NA?
LUNDAG TAYO MAMAYA PARA TUMANGKAD

Love Notes

Wasted Years

We were together for almost 12 years, almost half of our lifetimes. How could it end just like that?

Dear Joe,

Just call me Lavender, 25, single and working in Makati. I'm a very emotional person, yet very sweet and caring to my family and friends. I don't have a boyfriend now because my 12-year relationship with Carlo just ended.

I met Carlo when I was a freshman in high school. We got along very well, became the best of friends, and eventually became a couple. It was a beautiful relationship, Joe. Four years later, he dumped me, telling me he felt guilty because he didn't bring any good to our relationship. At first I couldn't bring myself to believe that it was over just like that, but I agreed. Three days later, I found out that he was courting my classmate. And that justified everything.

We both went to college. I moved on, bearing the pain inside me and still loving the guy who ruthlessly dumped me. But one day, Carlo told me he wanted me back. My friends warned me against it, but I didn't listen. Since I still loved Carlo, I accepted him again. He broke up with my former classmate that same day.

Our love became stronger; as others say, love is sweeter the second time around. We proved to our friends that they were wrong. He even went to the States for a year, but that didn't make us part ways. We had family issues because his mom doesn't like me. She wanted someone better for Carlo, but that didn't stop him from loving me.

That was what I thought. Just this year he told me that he wanted to break up with me again because he suspects that I was seeing someone else at work, that I had changed and that I didn't care about him anymore. How could that happen? We're always together every second of the day. I tried to hang on, but I felt I couldn't convince him any more. We were together for almost 12 years of our lives, almost half of our lifetimes. How could it end just like that? With so much pain in my heart, I agreed. Our relationship ended, unjustified.

A week after, I found out that he was seeing somebody else again! Joe, I felt broken for the second time. I've been loving and trusting this person my whole life—loving every piece of him and accepting his flaws and shortcomings. But our 12 years together were thrown aside, just like that. I should have listened to my friends. I'm blaming myself now. I was even accused of something that I didn't do.

Again, I'm trying to move on from this trauma. I find it difficult to trust anyone now because of the fear of being rejected again. When I accidentally saw him, I felt no love anymore. I had so much anger in my heart that I wanted to curse him for leaving me without a valid explanation. I just pray that I may be able to forgive him. Joe, no matter how I try, all I feel is pain and anger. I have been good to him and gave him all the love that I have, and I don't deserve this kind of punishment.

Joe, how am I supposed to move on now? It's been 12 years. If only I had found out earlier. I feel I wasted the best 12 years of my life. Please tell me what to do. I don't want to fall in love again.

Sincerely yours,
Lavender

Dear Lavender,

I really don't think you wasted 12 years of your life, because you spent it with someone you truly loved. I believe that no matter how ugly a relationship turns out to be in the end, there was still a time when it was beautiful, a time when it made us happy. And that should be the measure we use, not the bitterness that we feel inside.

You have allowed anger and hatred to rule your heart. These emotions are toxic and can make your life miserable. Lavender, one of the greatest acts of love is the act of forgiveness. It is also one of the most difficult things to do. Keeping ill feeling towards another person is like lighting a fire that eventually grows and consumes us.

Our life should be led by love and compassion and not by the desire to seek vengeance for other people's wrongdoings. Carlo made you curse him but there was once a time when he made you very happy. Look back not at the things that make you feel bad, but at the things that show just how blessed you are.

Lavender, the first step to a new beginning is forgiveness. Cry for a while and then forget about how bad you felt. Accept that you didn't have forever, but you had 12 wonderful years of love. Grieve for a while, but do not regret that you have loved him because it was one of the most beautiful things that happened to your life. Put down the heavy bag of negative emotions that you carry right now, and move on with a new life. Remember that love never gives a guarantee of permanence. But it always gives hope. Love doesn't promise forever, but it gives us faith to believe. Love makes us cry, but the tears that it brings can breathe a new life, a new beginning, and a new hope to those who believe and those who find the courage to move on and love again. Q

The General

...from page 5

Lately, Reyes has been under fire for reviving the proposal for a national identification (ID) system for Filipinos, which many consider a militarist approach to addressing terrorism and criminality problems.

The Valentine Day's bombings in the cities of Makati, Davao and General Santos this year prompted Reyes to meet with local executives in the provinces to discuss the need for an ID system. Their unanimous approval reinforced Reyes' belief in the system as an instrument against terror and violence.

Having a national ID number, he says, does not violate civil liberties or human rights. Rationale is provided in the Local Government Code of 1991, which requires a barangay secretary to keep a complete record of the personal circumstances of every resident in a village.

"The problem is that people are too assertive and protective of their rights and privileges, but forget about their duties and obligations," Reyes says. "Most regular residents of the Philippines want a national ID. As I've said before, if you've got nothing to hide, then you've got nothing to fear." He says the US has a national ID through the Social Security System, yet the system is not considered dictatorial. Singapore and Malaysia also issue national ID cards to their residents once they reach the age of 15.

The system will not be expensive, Reyes says, since the data to be encoded in the national database will come from government agencies and units, among them the Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System, Land Transportation Office (for drivers' licenses), senior citizens' offices, the Commission on Elections, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Already, the strong opposition by some politicians and human rights advocates to the ID system proposal could cost Reyes his confirmation. But he says he is willing to swim against the tide, confident that he can hurdle the odds. "I don't have regrets in life. I'll take the downs with the ups." Q

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